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Japan

Kaifu, Thatcher Discuss Soviet Union, PRC

OW0109095591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed Sunday that the continued existence of a central Soviet government is important to international stability.

Thatcher told Kaifu in an hour-long meeting that the international situation will be more stable if Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev remains in power, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Officials also said she suggested that the Soviet Government should, at minimum, retain control over foreign relations, defense, and taxation.

Thatcher also said a supreme decision-making organ is necessary to coordinate views between the constituent republics when they have differences.

The meeting at the Akasaka State Guesthouse took place a day after the Central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan became the ninth and 10th republics to declare their independence from the Soviet Union.

Only five of the original republics officially remain in the original union.

Kaifu told Thatcher that he believes a central Soviet government is in the interest of international peace and stability.

Control of the strategic nuclear arsenal should also remain with the Soviet Government, he was also quoted as saying.

Thatcher said that the relationship between the central government and republics should be settled quickly in order to preempt a possible resurgence of hard-liners, the official said.

Gorbachev and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin must demonstrate to the Soviet citizens a high degree of political responsibility, she was quoted as saying.

Thatcher said that the Baltic states, which have already received recognition from many countries, should be treated separately from the other republics seeking independence.

The Foreign Ministry official, who requested anonymity, said that Japan basically shares Thatcher's views on developments in the Soviet Union.

On China, Kaifu said that during his recent trip to Beijing he had encouraged Chinese leadership to "create domestic conditions" necessary for reopening consultations with other industrialized countries.

Kaifu was the first leader of a major industrialized nation to visit China since the 1989 crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, and a subsequent freeze on high-level contacts by Group of Seven (G-7) nations.

During the visit, he advised Chinese leaders to respond to concerns on human rights in a way that will be acceptable to the international community.

Thatcher thanked Kaifu for pressing Beijing to retain the capitalist system in Hong Kong following the British colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997, the official said.

The former British prime minister, who arrived here earlier Sunday at the invitation of a private company, also expressed appreciation for Kaifu's "delicate, diplomatic" approach on human rights, the official said.

Thatcher is scheduled to visit Beijing following her 10-day stay here.

Foreign Ministry Mission Visiting Baltic States

OW3108040891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—A five-member Japanese mission left Saturday morning for the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to lay the groundwork for extending them diplomatic recognition following their declarations of full independence from the Soviet Union.

The mission is led by Hirokazu Arai, the Foreign Ministry's chief liaison officer in Osaka and former ambassador to East Germany.

After a stopover in Moscow, the mission will tour the capital of each Baltic republic to exchange views with leaders there. The mission will convey Tokyo's position that the Japanese Government supports the independence of the three Baltic republics and is considering recognition of each as a sovereign nation, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The mission will also survey the situation in the Soviet Union following their visit to the three Baltic republics September 1 to September 10. The five-member team will return to Tokyo September 10.

On Monday, the Japanese Government issued a statement saying Japan plans to extend diplomatic recognition to the Baltic states.

Delay in Recognizing Baltics Announced

OW0309025391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0232 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Japan's recognition of the Baltic states is likely to be delayed another week until the return of a diplomatic mission, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said Tuesday.

Sakamoto said it is "common sense" to wait to hear reports from Ambassador Hirokazu Arai, who is currently visiting the Baltics as head of a five-member Japanese government mission, before making a final decision.

Arai, the chief liaison officer in Osaka for the Foreign Ministry and an expert on Soviet affairs, departed Saturday to visit the three states—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—to prepare for establishing diplomatic ties.

His team is scheduled to return to Tokyo on September 10.

On Monday, Sakamoto said the approval of the Soviet Union's Congress of People's Deputies of the breakaway republics' demand for independence would be a major factor in the timing of Japan's recognition.

The congress opened in Moscow on Monday for a three-day session and agreed to discuss the question of the independence of the Baltic states, Moldova, and Georgia on Tuesday, according to reports from Moscow.

Humanitarian Aid to USSR Hinted

OW3108014691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 30 (KYODO)—Japan will boost its assistance to the Soviet Union on top of the 100 million dollars already pledged, in humanitarian aid to help tackle shortages of essentials expected in the coming winter, a high-level Foreign Ministry official indicated Friday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito dropped the hint in a meeting with reporters upon returning from a visit to Moscow, where he met with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

A senior ministry source indicated Japan will open up talks with the Russian Federation on providing such assistance as food and medical supplies, separate from the 100 million dollars in food assistance already pledged to the Soviet Union.

The source said Japan wants to focus its aid on the Far East region of the federation.

Saito, who went to Moscow as a special emmissary of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, said he received no concrete requests for Japanese assistance from the numerous Soviet and Russian Federation officials he met.

"But that is not to say that they do not want it," he said, adding the main message the officials wanted to convey to Japan this time was their appreciation for its support amid last week's botched coup.

Saito said an aide to Gorbachev told him the Soviet Union is in need of assistance from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations—Japan, the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

He said Japan will come up with its position on aid after Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada returns from a meeting in London of "sherpas," or the working-level representatives of the G-7 countries.

Saito said he expressed Japan's concern to Soviet and Russian officials about the future administration of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons.

He said he was told the weapons would remain under the control and jurisdiction of the central authorities in Moscow.

Saito also met Tuesday with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev. The two agreed to hold working-level talks possibly sometime next month on the issue of concluding a peace treaty.

Japan links that issue to the return of four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Saito said Gorbachev, whom he met Thursday, pledged to honor an agreement reached with Kaifu last April by which the peace treaty process was to be "accelerated."

He said Gorbachev and Yelstin, in addition to expressing appreciation for Japan's support for the anti-coup resistance, both pledged to continue instituting reforms to ensure the consolidation of freedom and democracy.

Saito handed a letter to Gorbachev from Kaifu proposing the two countries "not lose this opportunity" to conclude a Japan-Soviet peace treaty and completely normalize relations.

Renewed Efforts To Win Back Islands Urged

OW0309103391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Executive Keizo Obuchi said Tuesday that Japan now has the "best chance" for winning back from the Soviet Union four disputed islands situated off Hokkaido.

The Soviet Union may be in disarray, but it has realized it cannot proceed without Japan, Obuchi told an annual LDP symposium to protest the Soviet Red Army's seizure of the islands four decades ago.

"This is our best chance for the return of the islands," Obuchi said, citing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit here in April as evidence that the Soviet Union recognizes it can no longer ignore Japan.

"We must work hard to ensure that the islands are returned this year," he told the symposium, held to mark the day in 1945 when the Soviet military finished its sweep across the disputed territories.

On aid to the Soviet Union, Obuchi told the audience of some 1,000 LDP supporters that without a resolution to the island dispute, there would be no "new Japan-Soviet relationship."

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama noted that Japan has won support from both the United States and Britain for its demand that the dispute be resolved.

He called on the public to demonstrate strong support for the government's policy of demanding the return of the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group.

The government has refused to conclude a peace treaty until there is a solution to the dispute.

Panelists generally agreed that conditions for winning back the islands have improved in the wake of the failed August 19 coup d'etat.

Soviet studies expert Prof. Hiroshi Kimura predicted that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, his popularity now peaking, would be able to dispose of the island issue without significant political backlash.

"Economic support is more urgent than before," said Kimura, of the Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto. "With the United States exhausted following the Gulf war, and Germany preoccupied with unification, that leaves only Japan," he said.

Kimura predicted that Gorbachev would soon step down, while Yeltsin may well make Japan his first foreign destination.

"Gorbachev came to Japan too late, in his sixth year in office," Kimura said. "Yeltsin may come to Japan in December or January."

Prof. Kenichi Ito, depicting the recent turmoil in the Soviet Union as Japan's "first and last big opportunity," to recover the disputed territory, urged the government to act without delay, or risk being accused of disinterest in the islands.

The Aoyama Gakuin professor cautioned, however, that Yeltsin may find his hands are tied by revived Russian nationalism.

Large-scale assistance should be put on hold until the islands are returned, said Ito, a former Foreign Ministry official.

Over the past week Japanese officials have expressed hope that the independence of the Baltic states and reconfiguration of the Soviet Union might pave the way for a return of the islands.

Minister Disputes U.S. Rice Statement

OW0309033591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0247 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Japan's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries angrily disputed Tuesday a reported remark by a U.S. official suggesting that it is only a matter of timing for Japan to open its rice market.

"That is totally different from the view of the Japanese Government. I wonder why they could not understand yet what we are thinking," Motoji Kondo told reporters.

James V. Parker, minister-counsellor for agricultural affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, reportedly said Monday he had a feeling that Japan is willing to open its rice market.

Speaking to a group of reporters in Nagoya, central Japan, Parker reportedly said the issue of opening the rice market is a matter of timing.

Kondo said he will scrutinize the content of the U.S. official's remark and suggested that the government may formally lodge a protest with the U.S. Embassy over it.

Japan maintains a near-total ban on rice imports to protect domestic rice growers, despite persistent pressures from the United States to open the rice market.

More on Fourth Round of DPRK Talks

Reparations Demands Rejected

OW0109144591 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 01 Sep 91

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japan on Sunday turned down a demand by North Korea to pay reparations for its 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula, according to Japanese officials for bilateral normalization talks.

Chief Japanese negotiator Noboru Nakahira rejected the demand for financial compensation for property damages and Korean citizens killed during colonial rule, saying the two nations were never at war, the officials said.

Nakahira also refused to comply with a North Korean demand to compensate what Pyongyang calls losses it has incurred since the Korean peninsula was liberated from Japanese rule, they said.

North Korean negotiators said at a press conference after the day's talks, Japan should recognize its responsibility by paying reparations for "the one million Koreans killed and several million recruited as soldiers and forced labor."

The Japanese rejections were voiced on the third day of the fourth round of bilateral talks in Beijing.

Japan only conditionally acknowledged Pyongyang's right to seek property damages linked to the colonial rule, the officials quoted Nakahira as telling the North Korean side.

To make any progress on this issue, North Korea has to "present objective evidence to back up its claims" Nakahira told the North Koreans, referring to documents and certificates issued by Japanese colonial rulers.

Chon In-chol, head of the North Korean delegation said at the press conference, "Who can you imagine are still retaining such documents—50 years after the end of the colonial rule ?"

The North Korean side said the countries were at war, as the territory of North Korea constituted a part of the Korean peninsula once ruled by Japanese militarists.

Japan also urged the North Koreans to drop claims of jurisdiction over the whole peninsula and limits its sovereignty claims to North of the demilitarilized truce zone now dividing North and South Korea.

The normalization talks resumed Friday after the third round broke down in May in Beijing after a dispute over a missing Japanese woman whom Tokyo accuses Pyongyang of kidnapping to train a North Korean agent who confessed to blowing up a South Korean jet in 1987.

The both sides only agreed to make further "efforts to narrow the differences in opinions," the officials said.

The two countries will continue their talks on Monday, they said.

Compensation Demand Clarified

OW0209155991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 2 (KYODO)—North Korea's chief negotiator said here Monday that Pyongyang will only ask Japan to compensate it for damage inflicted in the northern portion of the Korean peninsula during 35 years of colonial rule.

Chon In-chol, deputy foreign minister, made the comment during an exclusive interview with KYODO news service following the fourth round of normalization talks between the two nations in the Chinese capital.

Chon disclosed that Pyongyang has been researching Germany's compensation for the massacre of millions of Jews during World War II as a basis for estimating possible reparations.

But he added that Pyongyang has not yet come up with a specific formula or figures to present to Japan.

Chon said Pyongyang might seek compensation for the estimated one million Korean victims of forced labor, conscription or prostitution.

It may also press claims for natural resources taken by Japan such as gold, silver and timber, as well as homes and properties confiscated or damaged as punishment against those opposing Japan's colonial rule.

Regarding compensation for the postwar period, Chon said North Korea will first present its case to the world, adding there is no precedent for Pyongyang's claims.

Meeting Scheduled for November

OW0209063491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 2 KYODO—Four days of wrangling over issues preventing full diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang ended Monday with both sides agreeing to meet for a fifth round of negotiations in Beijing in early November.

Japanese delegation sources said the two teams of negotiators agreed the details and schedule for the next meeting will be decided in preliminary working-level talks.

Monday's talks at the North Korean embassy in Beijing focused on international issues with the Tokyo delegation, led by veteran diplomat Noboru Nakahira, urging North Korea to comply unconditionally with international nuclear inspection accords, the sources said.

North Korea has refused to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities, demanding instead the United States remove its nuclear arsenal allegedly stationed in South Korea.

Tokyo also made a humanitarian appeal to Pyongyang to permit Japanese wives of Koreans repatriated to North Korea in the late 1950s to visit their families in Japan, the sources said.

The North Korean side, however, did not respond to the request and indicated it may make such visits a condition for progress in the normalization talks, they said.

Pyongyang's chief negotiator Chon In-chol later told reporters the Japanese wives live in good health in North Korea, saying a check into the welfare of 12 wives as requested by the Tokyo negotiators is unnecessary.

During the second round of talks held in Tokyo in March, Japanese negotiators requested that 30 of some 6,600 Japanese women who went with their husbands to North Korea be allowed to return to Japan for a visit and an investigation on the welfare on 12 more be allowed.

Chon said a survey has been conducted "from a humanitarian viewpoint," but said Japan asked nothing concrete during the negotiations so he did not respond.

In his own press conference, Nakahira said some progress had been made during the talks, but added there were no "dramatic developments."

Nakahira indicated Tokyo would continue to press for information about a Japanese woman allegedly kidnapped by North Korean agents, calling progress on the issue "necessary" within the larger goal of setting up normalized relations.

Japanese inquiries into the fate of the Japanese woman, known in Korean as Yi Un-hye, scuttled the third round of talks in May. In resuming the negotiations, Japan said it would not bring the matter up in the formal negotiating sessions, but would pursue it at informal meetings.

Before last Friday's scheduled start of the negotiations, however, the North Korean delegation became upset by Japan's questions about the woman, delaying the start of the talks.

Nakahira said he thought a mutual understanding of viewpoints was enhanced during the talks, but did not feel the upheaval in the Soviet Union had any influence on the negotiations.

Some analysts had predicted the defeat of hard-liners in the Kremlin would force Pyongyang to be more open to the West, while others forecast a more determined effort by North Korean Stalinists to maintain control in their isolated nation.

Cambodia Reconstruction Conference Urged

OW0109064891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0616 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japan is pressing ahead with a bid to host an international conference on economic aid for the reconstruction of Cambodia following a peace settlement between warring factions in that country, Foreign Ministry officials said Sunday.

This follows last week's meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) at the Thai beach resort of Phatthaya and a subsequent meeting Friday between the SNC and representatives of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on a peace deal forged by the factions.

The SNC is made up of leaders of the four Cambodian factions and represents the country's sovereignty until elections are held.

If the agreement holds, it will mean the end of the almost 13-year-long civil war is within sight.

Any such Tokyo conference could take place this year if the factions manage to finalize their agreement at the Paris Inernational Conference on Cambodia scheduled for October, the Japanese officials said.

All factions have already indicated they would like a conference in Japan.

Japan is approaching the United States and other Western countries as well as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund to urge their participation, the officials said.

If the conference is held in Tokyo, it would be the second in Japan on the Cambodian problem following one in June 1990.

Finance Minister Hints at Resignation

OW0309082391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto hinted Tuesday he may resign his post soon to take responsibility for the sweeping financial market scandals.

Hashimoto dropped the hint at a session of a special committee in the House of Councillors investigating the scandals, which involve commercial banks and securities companies.

"I am doing my best to avoid having the person who will take up the post, which I assume now, from appearing on this stage with the same feelings I have," he told the committee.

Hashimoto said that the Finance Ministry placed too much emphasis on protection and development of the financial industry and neglected the interests of investors.

He reiterated that he will do his utmost to revise the Securities and Exchange Law to prevent a recurrence of the scandals.

More on Possible Resignation

OW0309140691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1351 GMT 03 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto may resign his post later this month after a bill to revise the Securities and Exchange Law is passed by the Diet, political sources said Tuesday. [passage omitted] Observers regarded the remark as hinting at his resignation.

Hashimoto himself came under fire following revelations that his former private secretary was involved in a swindling case involving Fuji Bank.

Government sources said Hashimoto should stay in office at least until discussions in the Diet on the proposed amendment of the law are completed.

The bill, aimed at preventing the recurrence of scandals involving the financial industry, is expected to be approved by the Diet in mid-September, the sources said.

The bill has to be cleared through the Diet and after that it is up to Hashimoto to decide, they said.

If he resigns his post, Hashimoto will be the first finance minister to step down since December 1988, when former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa quit to take responsibility for his involvement in the Recruit scandal.

In connection with revelations that two major brokerages were linked to an underworld syndicate in massive stock trading, Hashimoto said their involvement in stock trading by gangster groups is unpardonable.

He said the Finance Ministry is conducting a special inspection on their operations and will take stern action if new factors such as stock manipulation are discovered.

In a related development, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed hope that recipients involved in the stock payout scandal will voluntarily surrender windfall profits in a way or others which would prove their sense of social responsibility.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the Finance Ministry's Securities Bureau, told the committee session the "Big Four" brokerages reimbursed favored clients a total of 68.6 billion yen from January to march 1990 in disregard of a directive banning such kickbacks.

The sum accounted for 86.3 percent of the total kickbacks paid by the brokerages in fiscal 1989, which ended in March 1990, Matsuno said.

Nomura Suspected of Additional Compensation

OW0209051991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 KYODO—Nomura Securities Co. is suspected of having paid additional compensation for market losses to favored clients on top of similar reimbursements it has already admitted making through March 1990, a senior Finance Ministry official said Monday.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's Securities Bureau, told the House of Representatives ad hoc committee on securities and financial problems that his ministry has found transactions that Nomura is suspected of using to reimburse certain clients beyond that date.

The ministry is also investigating suspicions that Japanese securities companies guaranteed selected clients certain levels of yields in securities trading in violation of the securities and exchange law and will submit the results of the probe to the Diet, Matsuno said.

The brokerages arbitrarily provided extra profits in 59 cases involving corporate and individual clients who suffered no market losses, he said.

The 59 were among 617 cases of reimbursements to clients that were disclosed by the securities companies.

The Finance Ministry, in a 1987 directive, ordered the securities firms not to promise yield targets in securities transactions to their clients.

International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao told the session that the companies compensated by the securities firms for market losses should return the compensations to society "in some form." He did not elaborate.

Setsuo Umezawa, chairman of the Fair Trade Commission, told the committee that the uniform commissions charged by the securities firms concerning straight bonds could constitute a violation of the antimonopoly law.

The Finance Ministry's Matsuno said all brokerage commissions should be set at a competitive and low level.

Kansai Business Group To Visit PRC

OW3108075091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—A Japanese business group will send a mission to China in September to study how the foiled coup in the Soviet Union affected the neighboring Communist country.

The 50-member mission, to be sent by the Kansai Committee for Economic Development from September 4-14, is the first large Japanese business mission to visit China after the abortive coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last week.

The delegation, headed by Yasuo Shingu, president of the Osaka-based Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., will examine the progress of China's open-door economic policies by meeting Premier Li Peng and other Chinese Government officials.

The group also will visit the cities of Dalian, Anshan, Shanghai, and Shenyang to meet regional political and economic leaders and visit foreign and state-owned factories.

Sino-Japanese trade has recovered from the Tiananmen Square incident in June 1989, which dealt some damage to bilateral business.

According to Finance Ministry data, in the second quarter this year bilateral trade surged 32.1 percent from a year earlier to 5.14 billion dollars.

In the April-June quarter, Japanese exports were valued at 2.07 billion dollars, up 47.0 percent, while imports from China totaled 3.07 billion dollars, a 23.7 percent increase.

Japanese economic assistance promised during the recent China visit by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is expected to give an added thrust to boosting bilateral trade to more than 20 billion dollars in fiscal 1991, according to industry sources.

North Korea

Full-Dress Talks With Japan Open in Beijing

'Obstructive Act' Blocks Opening

SK3008155691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1536 GMT 30 Aug 91

["First Day Session of Fourth Full-dress Talks for Normalisation of DPRK-Japan Diplomatic Relations Could Not Be Opened Owing to Obstructive Move of Japanese Side"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing August 30 (KCNA)—The fourth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of DPRK- Japan diplomatic relations was due in Beijing today, but the first day session could not be held owing to the obstructive act of the Japanese side.

Prior to the talks there was an unofficial contact between officials of the foreign ministries of both sides under a bilateral agreement.

The unofficial contact was held according to the request made by the Japanese side to hold contact at vice-director level of the the foreign ministries of the two countries, apart from the fourth full-dress talks, apologizing for having driven the intergovernmental talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations to an impasse and promising not to raise a problem alien to the talks.

At the contact the Japanese side asked for information about an unidentified Japanese woman.

Our side flatly rejected this request, saying we knew what the Japanese side sought in bringing up such problem and advising it not to raise the problem again because it had nothing to do with us.

Then the Japanese side, totally turning down the point agreed upon between the sides, persistently urged our side to comply with its request, alleging that we had agreed with it to "examine its request".

Dismissing with concrete data the Japanese side's assertion as a sheer distortion of the fact and stating that there was not such an agreement, our side clarified that at pre-consultation both sides agreed to hold the fourth full-dress talks after having an unofficial contact at vice-director level of the foreign ministries of the two countries, apart from the full-dress talks.

The Japanese side could not deny this fact. But it urged all day long our side to respond to its assertion, repeating absurd pretexts.

In this connection, our side stated that it could not but view, in the final analysis, the Japanese side's argument as prompted by a sinister intention to impair the authority and dignity of the DPRK and lay an artificial obstacle to the talks.

As the Japanese side obstructed our efforts to reach an agreement, dragging on the unofficial contact, the full-dress talks could not be opened at 10:30 this morning as scheduled.

The head of our side strongly demanded that the full-dress talks be held on time, independent of the on-going unofficial contact at deputy-director level because it is under way on the sidelines of the full-dress talks.

However, the head of the Japanese side, while admitting that the sides agreed to hold the unofficial contact apart from the full- dress talks, contended that it is difficult to start the full-dress talks before the unofficial contact comes to a conclusion.

The head of our side sternly warned that such an argument of the Japanese side contravenes the agreement reached between the sides and is aimed to bring the talks to a deadlock by raising the issue of an unidentified Japanese woman again as a precondition for the full-dress talks.

And he stated that the Japanese side should bear full responsibility for the failure of the first-day talks because of such obstructive moves of the Japanese side.

The stand taken by the Japanese side today makes us doubt whether it wants to sincerely approach the talks for the normalisation of the Japan-Korea diplomatic relations true to its promises or not.

A press conference was given on the unofficial contact.

Radio Reports First Day's Delay

SK3108041691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The 4th round of intergovernmental full-dress talks to normalize DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations was expected to be held in Beijing yesterday [30 August]. However, the talks were not held because of Japan's obstructive maneuvers.

According to the agreement reached by both sides, an unofficial contact between Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries was held prior to the talks.

The Japanese side, saying that it would apologize to us for suspending full-dress talks to normalize DPRK-Japanese diplomatic relations and that it would not put forward issues irrelevant to the talks at the full-dress talks, made a proposal separate from the fourth round of full-dress talks: that a deputy director-level contact of the foreign ministries be held away from the formal meeting site. Thus, an unofficial contact was held.

At the contact the Japanese side proposed that we investigate an unidentified Japanese woman. Our side recognized Japan's intention behind raising the question of an unidentified Japanese woman. We replied that we do not know about this and called on the Japanese side not to raise issues like this any more.

Then, the Japanese side entirely ignored the subjects both sides agreed upon. It acted as if we had agreed to answer the Japanese demand for an investigation, insisting that we respond to its proposal.

Our side completely refuted the Japanese demand as untrue. We said that such an agreement was not reached and is not listed in any concrete papers. Our side clearly demonstrated that on the condition that an unofficial deputy director-level contact of the two countries' foreign ministries be held separately from the full-dress talks, it was previously agreed that the fourth round of full-dress talks be held.

The Japanese side did not dare not deny this fact. While raising various inconsistent subjects, the Japanese side persistently demanded that we respond to its demand.

As a result, our side decided that Japan's demand stems from its attempt to undermine the authority and dignity of our republic and to create an artificial stumbling block before the talks.

As the Japanese side dragged on the unofficial contact and prevented an agreement from being reached, the full-dress talks, expected to be held at 1030 [0130 GMT on 30 August], were not held.

Our side's chief delegate claimed that because the unnofficial deputy director-level contact was a separate meeting and unrelated to the full-dress talks, regardless of the status of the unofficial contact, the full-dress talks should be held at the scheduled time.

However, though admitting both sides' agreement that the unofficial contact should be held separately regardless of the full- dress talks, the chief Japanese delegate said that it is difficult to hold full-dress talks before an agreement is reached in the unofficial contact.

Our side's chief delegate sternly pointed out that such a Japanese claim goes against the agreement reached by both sides and that raising the issue of an unidentified Japanese woman as a precondition for full-dress talks is to lead the talks to a deadlock.

In addition, our side's chief delegate claimed that the Japanese side should be held entirely responsible that the first-day's talks were not held because of their obstructive maneuver.

Japan's attitude yesterday makes us doubt whether Japan will keep its promise and whether it will sincerely come to the talks to normalize diplomatic relations with the DPRK.

In connection with the unofficial contact, a press conference was held yesterday.

Talks With Japan Open 31 Aug

SK3108160891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1554 GMT 31 Aug 91

["Fourth Full-dress Intergovernmental Talks for Normalization of DPRK-Japan Diplomatic Relations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing August 31 (KCNA)—The fourth full-dress intergovernmental talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan were held here today.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were the members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and on the opposite side were the members of the Japanese Government delegation led by Noboru Nakahira, representative of the Japanese Government.

The fourth full-dress talks which were to begin on August 30 opened this afternoon due to the Japanese side's obstructive moves.

At the informal contact of the Foreign Ministry's deputy department director level on August 30 the Japanese side twisted facts to completely overturn the points already agreed between the ytwo sides, and came up with an unreasonable demand, stubbornly asking the Korean side to comply with it.

The Korean side cited concrete facts to refute the unreasonable demand of the Japanese side and strongly urged concluding the informal contact as quickly as possible as already agreed.

Unable to insist on its unjustifiable demand any longer in face of the Korean side's principled and well-founded argument and demand, the Japanese side finally withdrew its wrong demand. Thus, the contact came to a close in the long run and they entered the fourth full-dress talks.

At the talks today they discussed the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, the first item on the agenda.

They agreed to continue discussions of the question at the talks next day.

Japan Denounced for Mentioning Kidnapping

OW3008165391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1609 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Beijing, Aug. 30 KYODO—North Korea on Friday denounced Japan for urging it to investigate the whereabouts of a Japanese woman allegedly kidnapped to North Korea 13 years ago to tutor its agents, including the woman convicted of the 1987 bombing of a South Korean airliner.

"Japan tarnished the dignity of our Republic (North Korea) by blaming on us the issue involving a nonexistent woman whose identity is unknown," North Korean spokesman Yi Sam-no told a news conference.

The denunciation came on the day Japan and North Korea began a fourth round of talks in Beijing on establishing diplomatic relations. The third round of normalization talks broke down in May over the same kidnapping allegation.

Japanese police have claimed that the woman was abducted to train self-confessed North Korean agent Kim Hyon-hui in the Japanese language and customs so that she could pose as a Japanese tourist in her mission of blowing up a Korean Air jet to block the 1988 Olympic games from bolstering Seoul's international reputation.

Kim told Japanese police investigators that she knew her Japanese tutor by the Korean name Yi Un-hye.

Japanese police later identified the woman as a night club hostess and mother of two from Japan's Saitama Prefecture. They said the woman, who would now be 35, was working at a night club in Tokyo's Ikebukuro area until she vanished in 1978.

Kim, 29, received a full pardon after being sentenced to death for bombing the plane with 115 people on board.

Spokesman Yi, who is attached to the North Korean Foreign Ministry, told reporters Japan should not link its demand for data on the whereabouts of the woman to the normalization talks.

Yi condemned the Japanese side for raising the case of the woman in a separate unofficial meeting between the two sides, "in contravention of the bilateral agreement not to take up the issue."

Branding the kidnapping allegation "a fiction concocted by the the Southern (Korea) conspirators," Yi criticized Japanese negotiators for trying to "destroy the dignity of the Republic in conjunction with South Korea and the United States."

"Japan insisted the diplomatic normalization talks should be linked to a separate unofficial meeting in contravention of a prior agreement (not to link the issue to the normalization talks)," he said.

"Japan must shoulder the responsibility for the delay in the normalization talks. Whether North Korea agrees to further talks depends on the Japanese response (to our position)," he said.

"If Japan continue to blame the fictitious drama on us, it will spark foul political confusion," he said.

"We proposed letting the world's mass media and nations judge which side's assertions are accurate, but Japan refused to accept the proposal," he said.

"Japan does not budge from its groundless allegation," he said.

Japanese Delegation Holds Reception

SK3108050391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Beijing August 30 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government delegation staying in Beijing to participate in the fourth round of intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations hosted a reception this evening for the DPRK Government delegation.

Present on invitation were the members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and a councillor of the DPRK Embassy in Beijing.

Also present were the members of the Japanese Government delegation led by Noboru Nakahira, representative of the Japanese Government, and a councillor of the Japanese Embassy in China.

Heads of the delegations of both sides spoke words of greetings at the reception.

Japanese Delegates Hold Banquet

SK3108043891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The Japanese Government delegates in Beijing to participate the fourth round of intergovernmental full-dress talks to normalize DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations arranged a banquet for our government's delegates last night [30 August].

Members of our country's government delegation led by Chon In-chol, vice minister of the Foreign Ministry, and a diplomatic member of our country's embassy in China were invited.

Members of the Japanese Government delegation led by Noboru Nakahira, representative of the Japanese Government, and a diplomatic member of the Japanese Embassy in China attended the banquet.

The chief delegates of both sides' delegations exchanged greetings at the banquet.

DPRK Delegation Fetes Japanese Group

SK3108161491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1559 GMT 31 Aug 91

["DPRK Government Delegation Fetes Japanese Government Delegation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing August 31 (KCNA)—The DPRK Government delegation participating in the fourth round of intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations gave a reception in Beijing this evening for the Japanese Government delegation.

Present on invitation were members of the Japanese Government delegation led by Noboru Nakahira, representative of the Japanese Government, and a councillor of the Japanese Embassy in China.

Present were members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and a councillor of the DPRK Embassy in China.

The heads of the delegations of both sides spoke words of greetings at the reception.

Chon In-chol 31 Aug News Conference

SK0109021791 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Chon In-chol, vice foreign minister and head of our nation's delegation to the fourth round of full-dress intergovernmental talks for normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, held a news conference in our nation's embassy in China after the talks yesterday.

The reporters who accompanied our nation's government delegation, Japanese reporters, Chinese reporters, and correspondents from many countries attended the conference.

Chon In-chol, head of the delegation, briefed them on the status of the talks held yesterday afternoon.

He said that our side clearly stated that Japan is responsible for delaying the fourth round of full-dress talks, which were scheduled to be held for a day and half beginning on 31 August, because the Japanese side violated the agreements the two sides reached and unnecessarily put off the unofficial contact between deputy bureau director-level Foreign Ministry officials of the two countries. He added that our side expressed regret about this.

He pointed out: At today's talks, our side said that no noticeable results have been seen although the full-dress talks for normalizing DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations began a long time ago. The reason is because the Japanese side put forward as preconditions such issues as nuclear inspection, UN membership, and North-South dialogue. Thsese issues were not related to the talks and thus created artificial obstacles to them.

We decided to hold DPRK-Japan talks because Japan's Liberal Democratic Party government proposed the normalization of diplomatic relations based on an apology and compensation for the former Japanese colonial rule over Korea. Thus, we did not sit across from the Japanese side face to face simply to argue about issues irrelevant to the talks.

We stressed that the Japanese side should come to the DPRK-Japan talks sincerely and in the spirit of the joint declaration of the three parties.

Refuting the unjustness of the Japanese remarks at the talks, he said: The Japanese side acted as if we were responsible for the delay of the North-South high-level talks, thus revealing their intention to interfere in domestic affairs. What we should not overlook in particular in their remarks is that Japan heard a report that the North-South high-level talks were postponed because of the influence of the current Soviet situation. If this is true, it is indeed regrettable.

We asked the Japanese side if these comments were made after it read, even once, the official documents we have already made public. We then emphasized that if the Japanese side had read these documents, it should have realized that cholera was spreading in South Korea, and South Korea was declared a contaminated zone.

We said that in order to realize the North-South high-level talks, we proposed holding the talks in Panmunjom instead of Pyongyang. However, South Korea proposed that the talks be held in October when infection can be prevented. Thus, the talks are being postponed according to an agreement between the two sides. This notwithstanding, the Japanese side did not attempt to hear what we officially announced but listened only to groundless rumors. We called the Japanese side to account for this.

He exposed the Japanese side's unjust attempt to link the issue of North-South dialogue to the DPRK-Japan talks, which has nothing to do with them. He demanded that the Japanese side retract its remarks.

He said that the Japanese side raised the issue of nuclear inspection again. This is not an appropriate issue to be discussed during the DPRK-Japan talks, and he called the Japanese side to account.

He continued: At the talks, the Japanese side made a comment that implied we decided to enter the United Nations in compliance with the change in the international situation. However, because our decision resulted from our independent policy, the Japanese side should not interfere in this issue, saying this and that about the issue.

He noted that the issue of establishing diplomatic relations, the first agenda item at the talks, was discussed. He then answered reporters' questions.

Further on News Conference

SK0109083891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 1 Sep 91

["Head of DPRK Delegation to Fourth Intergovernmental Full-Dress Talks for Normalisation of Korea-Japan Diplomatic Relations Interviewed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing August 31 (KCNA)—Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, head of our side's delegation to the fourth round of the intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of the Korea-Japan diplomatic relations, gave a news briefing at the end of today's talks.

He informed the reporters of the talks.

He made it clear that the fourth full-dress talks which had been to begin on August 30 was postponed one day and a half because the Japanese side needlessly dragged on the informal contact at the level of deputy department directors of the foreign ministries of the two countries, contravening the points already agreed upon between the both sides.

He said:

At today's talks our side pointed out that the full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations has borne no fruit worth mentioning, though a long time has passed since it started, because the Japanese side has laid artificial obstacles in the way of the talks, bringing up matters alien to the talks such as nuclear inspection, entry into the United Nations and North-South dialogue as preconditions.

Our side said we responded to the talks as the Liberal Democratic Government of Japan approach us with a proposal to normalize diplomatic relations on the basis of its apology for Japan's colonial rule over Korea in the past period and compensation for it, not to wrangle over questions which have nothing to do with the talks.

We urged the Japanese side to approach the Korea-Japan talks from a sincere stand in the spirit of the three-party joint declaration. Our side refuted the unreasonable remarks of the Japanese side at the talks, Chon said.

He noted:

At the talks, the Japanese side seriously interfered in the internal affairs of ours, alleging that we were to blame for the postponement of the North-South high-level talks. We exposed the injustice of the Japanese side's stand in its attempt to link the North-South dialogue, quite another matter, with the DPRK-Japan talks and demanded that it withdraw its remarks.

We also accused the Japanese side of bringing forward again the problem of nuclear inspection which is not a matter to be discussed at the DPRK-Japan talks.

Chon In-chol said:

When the Japanese side contended that we decided to enter the United Nations in compliance with the changes of the international situation, we warned that the Japanese side must not poke its nose into this matter, as it proceeded entirely from our independent stand.

Chon In-chol informed the reporters that the establishing of diplomatic relations, the first item on the agenda, was discussed at the talks.

He answered questions put by reporters.

Chon In-chol Remarks After 1 Sep Talks

SK0209051191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0358 GMT 2 Sep 91

["4th Intergovernmental Full-Dress Talks for Normalisation of DPRK-Japan Diplomatic Relations Continues"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing September 1 (KCNA)—The 4th intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations continued in Beijing Sunday.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, the head of the DPRK Government delegation, gave a news briefing after the talks.

Briefing reporters on the talks held today [1 September], he said that the question of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, the first agenda item, was further discussed and the question of compensation, the second item on the agenda, was mainly discussed at the talks.

The Japanese side spoke first as regards the compensation, the second agenda item, Chon said, and continued:

The main content of the Japanese side's remarks was that there can be no compensation between the two countries as the Korea-Japan relations in the past were not relations between warring nations and there can be only property claim against Japan.

The Japanese side asserted that it would consider in the framework of property claim the human and material losses inflicted by Japan upon the Korean people during its colonial rule.

After questioning about a series of doubtful points in the statement of the Japanese side our side heard its answer. The Japanese side said the issue of property claim would be considered with the inclusion of the loss of human lives but it, in actuality, contended that there was no need to compensate for the human loss. In other words, it was of the view that there was no ground "under the law in force" to pay compensation to those Koreans who either were killed or underwent sufferings after being taken to Japan through conscription or labour draft during her colonial rule. For instance, Japan has no obligation to compensate those slain political prisoners as they were imprisoned under the Japanese law which was in force at that time and she needs not to compensate for the gold, silver, copper, iron and timber and huge quantities of other resources she looted in Korea because those were legally taken to Japan.

In the final analysis, the Japanese side contended that Japan is ready to compensate only those individuals who have postal savings books and pension certificates and those who were taken to Japan on conscription or for forced labour for the allowances unpaid and even that only when there are evidences.

Today when nearly half a century has passed since the liberation of Korea can there be any Korean who still keeps postal savings book in anticipation of any compensation from defeated Japan and how many Koreans could afford to save money, subjected to slavery in that period. The assertion of the Japanese side is, in fact, a denial of compensation.

Chon In-chol went on to say: The stance taken by the Japanese side in the course of the talks makes us doubt whether Japan is willing to properly liquidate her past wrongs or honestly repent of and compensate for the unspeakable misfortunes and sufferings and losses inflicted by Japan upon the Korean people in the past.

We categorically repudiated the unjust stand of the Japanese side that the past Korea-Japan relations were not those of warring parties and Korea was "separated" from Japan and became independent and, accordingly, there can be no compensation in the liquidation of her past wrongs.

We, citing all the historical facts, logically asserted once again that the relations between Korea and Japan in the past had all the time been those of warring parties because the Korean people fought against Japan which provoked a war of aggression.

We declared that with no pretext can Japan shirk its responsibility to compensate for the immeasurable human and material losses inflicted by her upon the Korean people in the past.

We said we consider the words "Korea's secession and independence" from Japan uttered by the Japanese side are unreasonable.

We said the Korean people waged a war of resistance against Japanese imperialism and consequently forced the Japanese Army to surrender, destroyed the Japanese imperialist colonial ruling machines and established an independent people's power organs by their own efforts.

Asking how could there be "secession and independence". [sentence as received] We said the argument of the Japanese side about "secession and independence" cannot be construed otherwise than its attempt to justify the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, evade compensation and not to honestly liquidate the past wrongs.

We stressed that it is natural for Japan which committed aggression on Korea in the past to compensate the losses suffered by our country, the victim of aggression, and roundly exposed all kinds of crimes committed by Japan in killing more than one million Koreans, inflicting misfortunes and sufferings beyond imagination by taking millions of Koreans to prisons and gallows, drafting them into the Army and compulsory labour and dragged away hundreds of thousands of Korean women as comfort girls for the Japanese Army mobilized in the war of aggression under the name of "volunteer corps" in the period of the colonial rule.

And we stressed that Japan can never evade the responsibility for compensation for the enormous damages and losses she had inflicted upon the Korean people in the past, irrespective of its name, whether it may be called war reparation or compensation for the losses.

The Japanese side, talking about "legal basis," "law in force" and the like, came out today with the preposterous claim that the political offenders who were imprisoned under the Japanese law at that time cannot be objects of compensation and the pillage of gold, silver, copper, iron, timber and other resources is devoid of legal ground for property claim as they were taken away legally.

We refuted this argument, saying it was little short of the repetition at the talks of the preposterous utterances of the Japanese governor general in Korea in the past days that "The Koreans must either obey the Japanese law or must die."

Noting that Japan had said she would not compensate the immeasurable sacrifices and sufferings imposed upon millions of Koreans, having turned the whole of Korea into a prison, and it should be settled in the form of property claim and now deny even this altogether, we said we can gather from this the standard of Japan's value of conscience.

We pointed out that the Southeast Asian people say now in unison that "the conscience of the Japanese has not been purified."

Stressing that it is necessary not for others but for Japan herself to properly liquidate her past wrongs, we said emphatically that Japan should lend an ear to public opinion at home and abroad and no more attempt to evade the responsibility for her past crimes by covering them up, remaining captive to the old-time mode of thinking.

We categorically refuted the absurd arguments brought forward by the Japanese side today to evade compensation for the postwar 45 years.

The Japanese side contended that the Japan-DPRK relations have remained abnormal so far because of East-West confrontation and the Korean policy. But our side said this is inconsistent with facts.

When it claimed that Japan has not pursued a hostile policy towards the DPRK, we recalled that Japan was the only country which entered on the passport of Japanese a ban on travel to the DPRK. This fact alone makes it plain enough what malicious hostile policy the Japanese Government authorities pursued against the DPRK.

In conclusion we stressed that Japan could live up to the expectation of the Korean and Japanese peoples for the conversion of the relations between the two countries into close and intimate ones and win the confidence of the Asian and world peoples only when she sufficiently compensates the enormous damages inflicted upon the

Korean people in the past and for the losses forced upon us in the postwar 45 years, as specified in the three-party joint declaration.

At the talks we urged the Japanese side to make joint efforts to find points of agreement by further studying the speeches of both sides at the talks today.

He answered questions put by reporters.

Radio Reports Chon In-chol Remarks

SK0209043991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] The fourth round of full-dress Korea-Japan [Choil] government-to-government talks on establishing diplomatic relations continued on 1 September in Beijing.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol held a news conference after the talks.

Reporters accompanying our government delegation, Japanese and Chinese reporters, and foreign correspondents based in China were present.

Informing the reporters on how the talks progressed, Chon In-chol, head of the delegation, said that though the two countries had a face-to-face discussion about the first item on the agenda—the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries—they mainly discussed the second item on the agenda, which concerned compensation.

Remarking that it was the Japanese side that spoke first about the second item on the agenda concerning compensation, he said: The gist of the Japanese side's remarks is that there can be no compensation between the two countries because they were never at war. We can only file property claims against Japan.

The Japanese side said that it will take into consideration the human and material damages done to the Korean people during Japan's colonial rule of Korea within the framework of the property claims.

We asked for clarification on a variety of questionable points in Japan's answers. Although Japan said it would take into consideration the human damages when making a decision about the property claims, it really meant that in practice there was no need to make compensation for human damages.

In other words, the Japanese side meant that there is no legal basis for compensating the Korean people that Japan recruited as soldiers and forced labor during its colonial rule, whether they had been killed or had suffered.

For example, even in the case of the Koreans who were killed as a result of their imprisonment on charges of being political offenders, Japan is not responsible for compensation for them because they had been imprisoned according to the Japanese laws of the time. Thus the Japanese say they have no reason to compensate for the enormous amount of resources plundered from Korea, such as gold, silver, bronze, iron ore, and timber because they were legally taken.

The upshot is that Japan can make a little compensation only for individual postal savings accounts, certificates of pension, and overdue, unpaid wages that Korean people recruited by Japan as soldiers and forced labor are entitled to, provided that such claims can be backed up by evidence.

Who would still have such postal savings documents, after nearly half a century since national liberation, hoping that the defeated Japan would pay them? How many Koreans who had been forced into slavery could save their wages? The essence of the Japanese side's assertions is that it will not compensate.

Head of the delegation Chon In-chol said: Judging from the position of the Japanese side as revealed during the talks, it is quite doubtful that Japan is willing to make a proper payment for the past. It is also doubtful that Japan will genuinely atone and compensate for the wrong it did, such as the indescribable misfortune, sufferings, and damages done to the Korean people.

We flatly rebutted the injustice of the Japanese side's position that Korea and Japan were never at war, that Korea was separately liberated from Japan, and that there can be no such thing as compensation when it comes to liquidating the past.

Citing all historical facts, we asserted again that former Korean-Japanese relations had remained consistently belligerent, which provoked a war of aggression with Korean people fighting in it.

We stressed that Japan has no excuse for evading its responsibility to offer compensation for the human and material damages of unspeakable proportions done to the Korean people.

At the same time, we said that we considered the Japanese side's reference to Korea's liberation from Japan as being separate. We said it was preposterous, and we rebutted it by arguing: How can anyone call Korea's liberation a separate one? It was achieved by the Korean people who had fought in a war of resistance against the Japanese imperialists. The Korean people consequently accepted the Japanese Army's surrender, liquidated the institutions the Japanese imperialists used for colonial rule in Korea, and established an independent people's government on their own. We noted that the Japanese side's babbling about separate liberation or something else cannot be considered anything but an expression of its intention to make the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule lawful, to avoid compensation. It shows that Japan is insincere about liquidating the past.

We emphasized that justice calls for Japan, which invaded Korea, to compensate for the damages our country suffered due to the invasion. We also exposed

Japan's crimes one by one, crimes that brought unimaginable misfortune and pain to the Korean people during the colonial rule: the slaying of some 1 million people; putting millions of Koreans in prison; hanging Koreans to death; forcing them into military service for the Japanese Army; forced labor; and forcing tens of thousands of Korean women into prostitution, calling them so-called entertainers for the Japanese soldiers fighting in the aggressive war.

Whether it is called war compensation or compensation for damages, we emphasized that Japan cannot by any means be free of its responsibility to compensate the Korean people for their enormous damages and losses.

While talking about legal bases and existing law, the Japanese side made preposterous claims. They said that since political offenders were imprisoned according to the Japanese law at that time, they cannot receive compensation; and that since gold, silver, bronze, iron ore, and timber were all taken legally, there is no legal basis for a claim against Japan.

We refuted this by saying that that kind of remark at the talks only repeats the vicious words made by Japan's governor-general of occupied Korea, who said that the Korean people must obey Japanese law or die.

Japan said it cannot make compensation for turning all of Korea into one prison and for sacrificing and giving immeasurable pain to millions of Koreans, but that this must be resolved through some kind of property claim. However, Japan denies that it did this, which clearly shows Japan's level consciousness.

We talked about the consistent opinion by the Southeast Asian people, who say even now that the Japanese people's consciousness have not been purified.

We strongly demanded that no one else but Japan can correctly liquidate its past wrongs. We said that Japan must listen carefully to public opinion at home and abroad and that it must no longer attempt to free itself from responsibility by hiding its past crimes and clinging to its old way of thinking.

We argued against various unjust claims Japan made in today's talks, which were only to escape paying compensation 45 years after the war.

Japan is saying abnormal Japan-DPRK relations are due to East- West confrontation and Korea's policy, but we said this is contrary to the truth.

Japan is saying that it did not carry out a hostile policy against us. However, Japan is the only nation that states in its passports that it prohibits travel to our Republic, and we said that this clearly shows how viciously the Japanese Government authorities carried out its hostile policy against us.

Finally, he emphasized that Japan must make sufficient compensation for the enormous damages inflicted on the Korean people as revealed in the three-party joint declaration and for the damages suffered during the 45 years after the war. He said that by doing so Japan can repay the expectations of the Japanese and North Korean people, change Japan-DPRK relations into close and friendly relations, and gain trust from the people of Asia and the world.

He said he told the Japanese side they needed to deliberate further on the remarks made by both sides in today's talks and make joint efforts to reach an agreement.

Then he answered reporters' questions.

JSP Official's Comments Criticized

SK0309062991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0524 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSP], at a press conference in Otaru city on September 1 criticized the wrong attitude of the Japanese side over the delay of the 4th intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations in Beijing.

Recalling that the start of the negotiations for the normalisation of diplomatic relations was delayed as the Japanese side brought forward again the matter of a Japanese woman which had nothing to do with the talks, he said it is the Japanese side that raised the matter which had nothing to do with the negotiation for the normalisation of diplomatic relations and it is a common sense whether it is proper or not, in the light of international usage to make it an agenda item of negotiation.

He sharply criticized the attitude of the Japanese side saying "It is rather understandable why the Korea side is taking a tougher position."

Talks With Japan Close

SK0209154991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1516 GMT 2 Sep 91

["Fourth Intergovernmental Full-Dress Talks for Normalisation of DPRK-Japan Diplomatic Relations Closes"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Beijing September 2 (KCNA)—The fourth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations closed here this morning.

The third and fourth items of the agenda were taken up at the talks.

At the end of the talks head of the DPRK Government delegation Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, had a news briefing on the proceeding of the talks.

He recalled that in the discussion of the third agenda item the Japanese side, while appreciating our go-ahead attitude towards the question of the signing of the Nuclear Safegards Accord (NSA), asserted that we should sign the NSA as early as possible and accept the nuclear inspection.

He pointed out that at the talks our side made it clear once again that the question of signing the NSA is not the matter to be discussed at the on-going talks, that there is no ground whatsoever for Japan to meddle in this matter and, moreover, there is no need to say this or that over the matter because we have done everything we could do together with the International Atomic Energy Agency. And we asked the Japanese side why it brought forward the matter again, he noted, adding:

This notwithstanding, the Japanese side insisted on its assertion that we should sign the NSA and accept the nuclear inspection. That is why we manifested our side's stand on this.

The Japanese side is persistently talking about the nuclear inspection which has nothing to do with the talks. This itself insinuates strong doubt into our minds.

The Japanese side stated that it would approach the DPRK-Japan talks without any precondition before the talks but it brought forward the question of nuclear inspection as a precondition at the beginning of the talks, laying artificial obstacles in its way. Such abrupt change in its attitude was attributable to the entreaty and pressure from others and the Japanese side considered this favourable to attaining its sinister aim.

We cited concrete data to recall that Japan is taking the lead in raising a hue and cry over the nuclear inspection of the DPRK in the international arena.

Here one cannot but raise a question "Does Japan do so because of real nuclear threat?"

We often heard the Japanese side talking about the sentiments of the people as the victim to atomic bombs. Then why it remains so insensible and keeps mum about more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea? And it makes such a fuss about "nuclear threat" from our Republic which does not possess such nuclear weapons and has neither capacity nor intention to produce nukes.

We stressed that if Japan is truly concerned about the nuclear threat it should also insist on the inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea, a potential threat from the logical point of view, not merely asserting the unilateral nuclear inspection of the DPRK, and support the proposal for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Now that the freshly-packaged proposal of our Republic for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula was presented more in detail and there is the prospect of a final solution to the problem of removing the nuclear threat from the peninsula, it is the only way of settling the question for the Japanese side to back the fair and aboveboard proposal of the DPRK, we emphasized.

As the new epoch-making proposal for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula was advanced by the government of our Republic on July 30, China and the Soviet Union welcomed and supported it and the United States, too, took a positive stand not negative, and the South Korean authorities, though they stated that there was nothing new in the offer at the beginning, took the stand of agreeing to the discussion of our proposal, thought belatedly, saying that there is a positive aspect in our proposal for the denuclearisation.

The Japanese side, however, took a wait-and-see attitude toward our proposal at the talks today. In this connection, we questioned the Japanese side why it is shelving the matter and only insisting on the unilateral nuclear inspection of us, since the realisation of this proposal would definitely pave the way for the substantial solution to the question of nuclear inspection much vaunted by it.

All the facts, we declared, show that the real aim sought by the Japanese Government authorities in raising a hue and cry over the question of nuclear inspection is not to resolve the question but to attain their sinister purpose. We told the Japanese side not to raise the question of nuclear inspection at the talks any more.

Recalling that at the talks today the Japanese side raised the question regarding the deferred North-South dialogue, he said:

We stressed that failure to make any progress in the dialogue is attributable to the unreasonable attitude of the South Korean authorities and the dialogue cannot be successful as long as the South Korean authorities are threatening us militarily while staging with the United States the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and other war games, blocking free travel, throwing behind the bars the figures who had visited the Northern half of Korea with the desire for reunification and suppressing the pro-reunification forces in South Korea, the "National Security Law" remaining in force.

We told the Japanese side that its unilateral demand to us as regards the North-South dialogue is a manifestation of pressure upon us and it is nothing but the repetition of what the South Korean authorities argue and that if Japan truly wants to see any progress at the North-South dialogue it should advise them to honestly approach the dialogue.

Noting that at the discussion of the fourth agenda item the Japanese side proposed the home-visiting of Japanese spouses, Chon In-chol said :

The Japanese side proposed the home-visiting of Japanese spouses at the first round of the intergovernment full-dress talks for the normalisation of diplomatic relations and at the second round held in Tokyo asked us to realise an early home-visiting of 20 Japanese spouses who have unavoidable reasons to do so and asked us to let it know about the health of 12 Japanese spouses.

This is a matter which will be automatically solved when the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations are normalized. But in consideration of the Japanese side's treatment of it as an urgent matter, we explained it our position that we would make efforts to realise case by case within the limits of possibility the home-visiting of the Japanese spouses who have to make it for unavoidable reasons even before the normalisation of diplomatic relations from the humanitarian point of view if the DPRK-Japan talks makes a smooth progress and envisaged the discussion of the question at the third round of the talks, too. The Japanese side, however, did not raise the matter at the third round. Probably, it was absorbed in the question of an unidentified Japanese woman alien to the talks.

This makes us doubt whether the Japanese Government is truly concerned about such humanitarian question as the realisation of the home-visiting of the Japanese spouses or the inquiry after their health and, in the final analysis, we came to understand that the Japanese side also uses the question concerning the Japanese spouses for a political purpose.

The question of home-visiting of Japanese spouses will be solved any time if the diplomatic relations between the two countries are normalised, we think.

As we have already asserted, if diplomatic relations are opened between the two countries, above all, the home-visiting of Japanese spouses will be fully realised at an early date.

When our side at the talks proposed a series of practical questions regarding the consolidation and improvement of the legal status of the Korean residents, the Japanese side said that it would study them and clarify its viewpoints at the follow-up talks.

Chon In-chol said that the sides agreed to hold the fifth round of the talks in Beijing early in November.

Then he answered the questions put by the reporters.

Friendship Delegation Arrives by Boat From Japan

SK2908104691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 29 (KCNA)—A "Japan-Korea Friendship Boat" visiting group led by Michinao Tsuchiya, representative member of the Japan Nagano Prefectural People's Council for supporting Korea's reunification, arrived in Wonsan today by the ship "Samjiyon".

The guests were met at the wharf by Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

Visitors Discuss Normalization of Ties

SK3008052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 30 (KCNA)—Japanese public figures who had visited Korea demanded that the normalisation of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea be realised on the basis of the joint declaration adopted by the Workers' Party of Korea, and the Liberal Democratic Party and Social-Democratic Party of Japan in September 1990.

Ryoshyo Hayashi, chief director of [word indistinct] Japan- Korea Cultural Interchange Association, said that if Japan had not occupied Korea, Korea could not have been divided. As long as Korea remains divided, Japan cannot throw off its responsibility for it, he noted, and stressed:

Japan must approach negotiations for the normalisation of Japan- Korea diplomatic relations with the stance of settling its colonial rule over Korea and its aftermath and joining the Korean people in the struggle for building a man-centred socialism.

Hiroshi Takeuchi, member of the "Japan-Korea Friendship Boat" visiting group, pointed out that Japan had plundered a large quantity of natural resources during its 36-year long rule over Korea and actively helped in the U.S. moves of aggression as its logistic base at the time of the Korean war and has pursued a hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Motofumi Makieda, representative member of the Japan Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification, stated that the abnormal relations between Japan and Korea must be settled on the basis of the three-party joint declaration. The Japanese Government delegate to the intergovernmental talks for the normalization of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Korea has acted contrary to the joint declaration of the three-parties, he said, and added:

The Japanese people of conscience feel ashamed at such attitude of the government and can hardly repress their resentment at it.

Kazuo Kishizuchi, chairman of the Liaison Consultative Council of Societies for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers, said that the Japanese Government must stop hindering the reunification of Korea, establish diplomatic relations between the two countries in the spirit of the joint declaration of the three parties and develop the friendship with the DPRK.

Group Attends Solidarity Meeting

SK3108112491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 31 (KCNA)—The "Japan-Korea Friendship Boat" visiting group staying in Korea held a meeting for solidarity with the Korean people here today.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

Head of the visiting group Machinao Tsuchiya in his speech said that their visit to the DPRK is intended to support the "joint declaration of the three parties" and further strengthen friendship and solidarity with the Korean people.

While visiting Mangyongdae and other places in Pyongyang, we were deeply moved every moment and every day by the fact that the building of socialism of Korean style is being dynamically stepped up and it is developing to a higher stage under the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the correct guidance of the dear leader Secretary Kim Chong-il, he said, and continued:

The advance of the Korean people along the road of brilliant victory today is backed by the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

The reunification proposal laid down by President Kim Il-song is a fair and reasonable one.

We will fully support the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and wage a powerful movement for it.

Noting that the United States is bringing forward the problem of "nuclear inspection" and trying to force it only upon the North, he said that the United States must withdraw its nuclear weapons from South Korea before talking about a nuclear inspection of the DPRK.

Strongly demanding that the Japanese Government hold the Japan- DPRK intergovernmental negotiation on the basis of the "joint declaration of the three parties", he stated that the Japanese Government must independently approach the talks for the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations with sincerity.

Speaking next, Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, said that the current visit of the members of the group will help deepen the understanding between the Korean and Japanese peoples and promote the friendly relations.

The speaker denounced the United States and the South Korean authorities for stepping up nuclear war preparations and schemes for national division, far from accepting the DPRK's fair proposals for national reunification and peace proposals.

If a nuclear war broke out, it would spread to broad areas of Asia including Japan and impose a horrible nuclear holocaust upon the Asian people.

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The removal of the source of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula is not only a matter related to the survival of our nation but also an indispensable requisite to peace in Japan, a neighbor, and, furthermore, in Asia and the rest of the world, the speaker said, stressing:

The Korean and Japanese peoples must pool efforts in the struggle to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone in Northeast Asia and build a New Asia, peaceful and independent.

A statement of the "Japan-Korea friendship boat" visiting group was made public at the meeting.

The statement called for achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea at an early date, strengthening support and solidarity for the South Korean people in the struggle for the democratization of society and national reunification, making efforts to establish a nuclear-free, peace zone in the Northeast Asian region including the Korean peninsula and Japan and urged the Japanese Government to ensure with sincerity the human rights of Koreans in Japan and their democratic national rights and legal status.

Noting that the Japanese Government allowed the outside forces' interference in the talks for the normalization of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations and is delaying it by bringing up a matter alien to the character of the talks, the statement strongly denounced it as an act going against the good neighbourhood and friendship between the two countries.

It demanded that the Japanese Government approach with sincerity the intergovernmental negotiations based on the "joint declaration of three parties" and realize early normalization of diplomatic relations.

It held that nuclear inspection should be made not only of the DPRK which has no intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons, but of South Korea where a large stock of nuclear weapons are deployed, and if "nuclear inspection" is to be made of the North, it must be made simultaneously of South Korea.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Visitors

*SK0309105191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1008 GMT 3 Sep 91*

["Secretary Kim Yong-sun Meets Leading Members of 'Japan-Korea Friendship Boat' Visiting Group and Reporters Accompanying It"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with the leading members of the "Japan-Korea Friendship Boat" visiting group led by Michinao Tsuchiya, representative member of the Japan Nagano Prefectural People's Council for supporting Korea's reunification.

Present there was Yi Song-ho, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

The head of the group said the members of the group unanimously expressed surprise at the appearance of the developed Democratic People's Republic of Korea during its stay.

Noting that the Japanese side again brought forward unreasonable questions at the fourth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, he stated: We feel ashamed of the attitude of the Japanese Government which has lost its independent stand.

We will wage a more powerful movement for friendship with the Korean people and the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, he declared.

Kim Yong-sun also met with Japanese reporters and answered questions put by them.

Japanese Group Demonstrates at Panmunjom

*SK0309061591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0520 GMT 3 Sep 91*

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—The "Japan-Korea Friendship Boat" visiting group led by Michinao Tsuchiya, representative member of the Japan Nagano prefectural People's Council for Supporting Korea's Reunification, Monday [2 Sep] visited Kaesong, a city adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], and held a demonstration supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The visiting group consists of figures of all walks of life who have waged a vigorous movement supporting the Korean people's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in Nagano Prefecture, Hokkaido and various other prefectures, Japan.

Deputy head of the visiting group Detsuya Nakashita made a speech before the demonstration.

He fully supported the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song and all the peace initiatives put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula and for the sake of peace in northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Then the members of the visiting group vigorously marched along the street, shouting slogans supporting the Korean people's cause of justice, carrying placards with them reading "Warm support to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea!" and "Let us promote normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations".

The group went round Panmunjom and saw the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet authorities in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line.

Japanese Groups Urge Normalization of Relations

*SK0209062891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0558 GMT 2 Sep 91*

[Text] Tokyo August 31 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—Delegates of the Saitama Prefectural People's Assembly for the promotion of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a request to Prime Minister Kaifu and Foreign Minister Nakayava urging the promotion of the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations on August 28.

Noting that the Japanese side is hampering progress of the talks by bringing forward matters which have nothing to do with the talks in the course of Japan-DPRK negotiations, the request demanded that the Japanese Government sincerely approach Japan-DPRK negotiations in accordance with the spirit of the joint declaration of three parties.

On the same day, delegates of Aomori women's society for solidarity with the Korean women called at the prime minister's official residence and handed over to Prime Minister Kaifu a request regarding the promotion of the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and an investigation into the truth behind forced walking away of Koreans.

Recent Developments in Soviet Union Reported

*SK3008111191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 30 Aug 91*

[Text] Pyongyang August 30 (KCNA)—The USSR Supreme Soviet voted in favour of prosecuting Anatoliy Lukyanov, president of the Supreme Soviet, on August 29, according to TASS reports.

Earlier, on August 26 he was suspended his duty [as received] as president of the USSR Supreme Soviet at the emergency session of the Supreme Soviet.

Soviet Prosecutor General Nikolay Trubin announced his resignation at the session on August 29.

His announcement came shortly after the session adopted his appeal to prosecute Anatoliy Lukyanov.

Meanwhile, on August 26 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed the decrees on relieving Lev Spiridonov of his post as director general of TASS and Leonid Kravchenko of his post of director of the All-Union State TV and Radio Company. NOVOSTI News Agency was put under the control of the Russian Federation according to a decree of the Soviet president.

On August 27 and 28 the Soviet president appointed Yegor Yakovlev director of the All-Union State TV and Radio Company and Vitaliy Ignatenko to head the TASS News Agency.

Meanwhile, on August 26, Ivan Silayev, Russian prime minister and chairman of the State Economic Management Committee, under agreement with the Soviet president, appointed competent government officials of the Russian Federation to the posts of management of eight ministries and departments of the USSR till new cadres have been appointed to them.

At the extraordinary meeting of the USSR Supreme Soviet now open in Moscow some delegates expressed unrest over the fact that Russian Federation government officials took over responsibilities for administration in many departments of the Soviet Government in the last few days.

Heated discussions took place over the question of signing a union treaty at the extraordinary meeting held on August 27.

Some delegates insisted on signing the union treaty at an early date, some others favored the version of maintenance of the union and, at the same time, of guarantee of equality for every and each member republic of the union, and some others called for taking the form of state confederation.

Some delegates insisted that the union is impossible unless powers are granted to it, stressing the need to invest it with full powers.

On the 27th, the Moldavian Republic of the USSR was the 7th to proclaim independence.

More on USSR Situation

SK3108235591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1548 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang August 31 (KCNA)—TASS reported that a government communications committee under the Soviet president with the authority of the union-republics committee was formed with the aim of ensuring constant control of the country and the national economy and the Soviet Armed Forces and ensuring exchange of information between the USSR state power and administrative bodies, independent republics of the USSR and other states and between economic and commercial organs according to some decrees of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on August 29.

The Soviet president in an interview with the Italian state radio on August 29 demanded the Western countries not to too hastily recognize the Baltic republics which seek independence from the Soviet Union.

Criticizing Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia for hailing to respect the USSR Constitution, he said, "You must observe the Constitution and laws we have enacted for ourselves, and the West should know it."

He announced that day that a delegation was sent to Kazakhstan to investigate massive protest actions which are gaining in scope in connection with Russia's unwillingness to withdraw its territorial claims.

Dmitriy Blakhov, chairman of the Belorussian Supreme Soviet standing committee for legislation, on August 30 objected to Russia's possible territorial claims on some republics which were raised in a recent statement of the information secretary of the Russian president.

He dismissed the statement as "politically preposterous," saying "dialogue is possible only from the position of good neighbourliness, peace and friendship, not from the position of strength."

He said:

We do not want to be a junior brother. All should be legally equal in the new union.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Russian Federation led by Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and an Ukrainian delegation led by Leonid Krabchuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, held talks in regard to the border problem in Kiev on August 28 and 29 and agreed to respect each other's sovereignty of republics.

A declaration on independence announcing the independence of a sovereign republic was adopted at a meeting of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet on August 30.

Yeltsin's Instructions Reported

SK3108234591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1545 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Moscow August 30 (KCNA)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin issued an instruction "on strengthening social protection of servicemen in the territory of the Russian Federation," TASS reported.

According to the instruction, the drafting of relevant Russian Federation laws shall be promoted, special funds be granted in 1992 and the cost for the maintenance of servicemen in the Russian Federation territory under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation be directly allotted to the Soviet Defence Ministry.

The Russian president also issued an instruction on performing all financial business related to foreign currencies, valuables and jewelry of the USSR Finance Ministry, state bank and foreign economic bank only with the consent of the Finance Ministry, central bank and foreign trade bank of the Russian Federation from August 25 and on transferring all the materials and technical bases belonging to the aforesaid three organizations to the competent organs of the Russian Federation before the 15th of September.

Kim Yong-sun on USSR, Nuclear Issue

OW0309112091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in North Korea—the DPRK—today met with Japanese reporters in Pyongyang. Asked about how North Korea will respond to the political change within the Soviet Union, he stressed that North Korea will uphold the socialist line, saying North Korea will firmly pursue its conventional line.

Regarding the issue of concluding an agreement with an international atomic organization on nuclear inspections, Secretary Kim argued that nuclear inspections should be simultaneously conducted on nucelar weapons that are said to be deployed in South Korea by U.S. forces.

Chong Chun-ki Reaffirms Socialist System

OW3108091191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Pyongyang, Aug. 31 KYODO—A high-ranking North Korean official, calling the dismantling of the Soviet Communist Party an internal affair of the Soviet Union, said Saturday it will cause little impact on the country.

Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, made the remark in a meeting with a visiting group of Japanese journalists.

He said the collapse of the Soviet party is an internal affair of the Soviet Union and that North Korea hopes the process will proceed smoothly in line with the wishes of the Soviet people.

Chong, who also is a member of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party and a member of parliament, said North Korea is pursuing its own form of socialism, which conforms to the national interests and its line is different from that of the Soviet Communist Party.

He said a broad range of youths, including military and police officers, have rallied behind president Kim Il-song in response to an appeal for loyalty to him by his son and heir apparent, Kim Chong-il.

Chong declared that the North Korean people are resolved to crush any scheme against socialism by imperialists.

China's Jilin Provincial Group Stresses Unity

SK0209160791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1539 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 2 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the Jilin Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China headed by Zhang Fengqi, chairman of the Advisory Commission of the committee.

The head of the delegation said that the Korean people under the wise leadership of their great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have made great achievements in socialist construction holding high the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural. The Chinese people are rejoiced as over their own over the successes made by the Korean people, he said, adding:

The Chinese and Korean peoples are real brothers. The two peoples are advancing along the road of struggle for building socialism and communism against capitalism.

Noting that no matter what change may take place in the world in the future, the two parties and the two peoples will certainly build communist society in unity, he stressed that China-Korea friendship will be everlasting.

South Korea

Reportage on Trade Talks, Relations With PRC

PRC Eyes Upgrading Trade Representative

SK0309092291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] China has proposed to the ROK that they upgrade the level of trade representative, which is at the civilian level between the ROK and the PRC, to one of the intergovernmental trade representative.

A government official said on 3 September: At the working-level talks between the two countries on trade and investment agreements held in Beijing last week, the Chinese side proposed this to Korea. It seems that China has worked out a long-term plan for normalizing diplomatic relations between the two countries and that it is likely to act in accordance with this timetable.

The official also said: If our side strongly asks the Chinese to set up a governmental liaison office, which is like the office that was formed as a second stage in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the

United States and the PRC, it seems that China will accept it. If there is such a second stage between Korea and China, the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be delayed. Because Korea is completely aware of this, it will not consider establishing the intergovernmental trade representative and liaison office. In addition, the director of a department in the Chinese Foreign Ministry visited the Korean Foreign Ministry in order to discuss participation in the Asian and Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] conference. The two Foreign Ministries' contacts are stable. If Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visits Seoul to participate in the APEC conference in November, the two countries' foreign ministers' talks will be held at that time. Relations between the two countries will then develop at a great pace.

Official Denies PRC Proposal

*SK0309093791 Seoul YONHAP in English
0845 GMT 3 Sep 91*

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—A Foreign Ministry official denied Tuesday that China has proposed to South Korea upgrading their private trade representative offices to government-level missions.

"There were no such proposals through any channel," he said.

The vernacular daily CHUNGANG ILBO reported in its Tuesday editions that during talks last week China suggested changing the status of the trade offices from private to government.

The trade offices were exchanged earlier this year under an agreement between the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and the Chinese Chamber of International Commerce.

The two governments held talks Aug. 26-28 in Beijing on concluding trade, investment protection and avoidance of double taxation accords.

CHUNGANG, quoting a government source, said the upgrade could be interpreted as an intermediate step to diplomatic normalization.

"We only exchanged opinions and ideas on the accords during last week's meetings. There was no discussion on upgrading bilateral relations," the ministry official said.

Normalization May Follow UN Admission

*SK0209124191 Seoul YONHAP in English
1229 GMT 2 Sep 91*

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 (YONHAP)—A "reliable" Chinese official recently told a Japanese visitor that China will normalize its relations with South Korea soon after South and North Korea are admitted to the United Nations, an informed source here said Monday.

The source well versed in Chinese affairs quoted the Chinese official as telling the Japanese official that China was determined not to change its policy toward South Korea despite a political change in the Soviet Union.

The Chinese official is quoted as saying in his meeting with the Japanese figure, "It cannot be ruled out that North Korea may try to interfere with the normalization process between Beijing and Seoul but the days have gone when China's policy is influenced by North Korea."

The Chinese official was also known to have said that North Korea itself would take the Seoul-Beijing normalization as "a fait accompli" in view of its need to normalize its relations with Japan.

The source, however, refused to identify who the Chinese official and the Japanese visitor were.

Normalization Predicted by '94

*SK0209032491 Seoul YONHAP in English
0255 GMT 2 Sep 91*

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (YONHAP)—Seoul will normalize ties with Beijing, and Tokyo with Pyongyang, in two or three years as things stand now, presidential aide for policy research Kim Hak-chun predicted Monday.

"Cross recognition of South and North Korea by the surrounding powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Japan—will come by the mid-1990s," Kim told a seminar on security in Northeast Asia in the 1990s sponsored by the Research Institute for International Affairs.

Speaking on the prospects for Seoul-Beijing ties, Prof. Ahn Pyung-chun of Yonsei University said bilateral cooperation in non-political areas would necessitate formal political ties due to intensifying economic and security cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

"After normalization of relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang, normalization also will be possible for Seoul and Beijing," he said.

Aleksandr Vorontsov, a senior researcher at the Soviet Institute of Oriental Studies, said Moscow gave top priority in its diplomacy to easing tension and settling peace in Asia and the Pacific.

Moscow put special emphasis on political settlement of the Korean question as it seriously affected the political climate in the region, he said.

"Constructive dialogue" and joint efforts by the two Koreas were indispensable to resolving the Korean question, Vorontsov said, and his government would offer every possible support for the fruitful progress of inter-Korean dialogue.

Envoy To Give No Tae-u's Letter to PRC

SK0309075891 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 3 Sep 91 p 2

[Text] Former Prime Minister Sin Hyon-hwak is to visit China on 4 September at the invitation of former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua.

For his stay in China until 18 September, former Prime Minister Sin is expected to meet such high-ranking Chinese leaders as Premier Li Peng and General Secretary Jiang Zemin and other high-ranking Chinese officials to deliver President No Tae-u's letter, which expresses the hope that Korea and China can normalize their diplomatic relations at the earliest possible date.

Negotiator Comments on Talks

SK0209070991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0353 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and China are likely to conclude a trade agreement before an accord on avoidance of double taxation as the procedure is simpler, the chief Korean negotiator said Monday.

Seoul initially hoped to conclude three pacts simultaneously but would sign the trade agreement first, said Kim Suk-u, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau.

Kim led a Korean delegation to negotiations in the Chinese capital Aug. 26-28 on the trade, investment protection and avoidance of double taxation agreements. The next round of talks is due in Seoul in October or November.

The atmosphere at the talks was "very positive," he said, suggesting concrete results can come earlier than expected.

Ministry officials predict the two agreements will be signed this year.

Seoul and Beijing have yet to establish diplomatic relations but exchanged trade representative offices earlier this year.

'Step-by-Step' Approach Advocated

SK0309033391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 3 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Korea and China are expected to conclude a trade accord which will abolish China's tax discrimination against Korean products by November, a government official said yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry's director-general for Asian affairs, Kim Suk-u, said the two sides agreed to hold the second round of negotiations on the agreement in Seoul in the near future during talks held in Beijing Aug. 26-28. He led the 12-member Korean delegation to the Beijing talks on the accords on trade and investment protection. Kim's Chinese opposite number was Xie Jianquen, vice chairman of the Chinese Chamber of International Commerce.

Kim expected the Seoul talks to take place in October or November. He indicated that the two countries would be able to sign the trade accord during the Seoul meeting by saying that he got the impression in Beijing that the talks would be wrapped up earlier than expected. He also expected the two sides to reach agreement on the trade accord more easily than on the investment protection agreement.

Currently, China imposes 5 to 30 percent in discriminatory taxes on South Korean goods. If the trade accord is to take effect, Korean officials have said, Seoul's exports to China will grow rapidly.

Kim said the procedures for the investment protection accord are more complex. "We may settle the trade agreement first if China wants to do so," he said, adding that Seoul initially wanted to conclude the two accords simultaneously.

An accord on investment protection, however, is also urgently needed for more active investment of Koreans in China, Kim said. Koreans investment in China has been limited to $80 million for the lack of the accord, he said. The official, however, refused to predict the early normalization of relations between South Korea and China. "Chinese are usually slow in making decisions and I would still suggest step-by-step approaches," Kim said. He said the government will also push for conclusion of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation soon after.

Entrepreneurs To Visit PRC

SK0309065091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0632 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—Sin Hyon-hwak, chairman of Samsung Co., will visit China Wednesday [4 September] with seven executives from the Samsung Group, the company said Tuesday.

They will meet with former Foreign Minister Huang Hua to discuss bilateral economic cooperation and tour Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Dalian, a Samsung spokesman said.

Sin Se-kil, president of Samsung Co., Song Chae-hak, president of Samsung Heavy Industries Co., and Pak Tong-song, head of Samsung Economic Research Institute, will be in Sin's party.

Team To Evaluate Beijing, Moscow Satellite Sites

SK0309074591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a fact-finding mission to China and the Soviet

Union, which are bidding to launch Korea's first communications satellite, a Communications Ministry official said Tuesday.

A five-member team will visit the China Great Wall Industrial Corp. in Beijing and a launch pad in Xian before touring Glavkosmos and the Proton launch pad in Moscow.

Cho Pyong-ha, director of communications satellite planning, will head the team, which leaves Wednesday and is due back Sept. 13.

The United States, France, China and the Soviet Union have all expressed a desire to take part in international bidding this November for the launch contract. The satellite is due in orbit in April 1995.

Korea sent a similar team to America and France in June.

For the manufacturing contract, the main bidders are the U.S. firms Hughes Communication International, Loral Space System and General Electric Astro, and British Aerospace.

Soviet-North Korean Relations May Be Downgraded

SK0309005891 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Sep 91 p 1

[By correspondent Yi Chang-hun in Moscow]

[Text] A radical reformer in the USSR hinted at a possible downgrading of Soviet-North Korean diplomatic relations from ambassadorial level to consular level. If so, it is possible that the two countries' relations will cool.

Delegation To Convey No's Message to Gorbachev

SK0209115291 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] A government delegation will depart for the Soviet Union on 5 September to discuss issues of promoting ROK-Soviet Union relations in connection with the recent Soviet situation.

The delegation, headed by Chang Man-sun, first vice foreign minister, will stay in the Soviet Union for about a week, and will convey President No Tae-u's message to President Gorbachev. The delegation will also meet Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, and discuss the issue of President Yeltsin's visit to the ROK which has already been proposed to No.

Government 'Almost Ready To Recognize' Baltics

SK0309095091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0756 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea is almost ready to recognize the Baltic states and will make a formal announcement after the Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet legislature, makes its decision on the republics' independence, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

A five-member government delegation, headed by First Assistant Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Chang Man-sun, will leave Thursday for Moscow for a week-long visit to meet with officials and discuss, among other things, future relations with the Soviet republics.

"The government will closely follow developments in the Soviet Union and make the announcement," the ministry official said.

The cabinet discussed Aug. 29 Korea-Soviet relations following the failed coup, including recognition of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Export of Tied-Loan Goods to USSR Delayed

SK0309020091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0035 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—Shipment of the first load of goods purchased by the Soviet Union with South Korea's 800 million-U.S.-dollar tied loan is likely to be postponed again, this time until October at the earliest, business sources said Tuesday. Political turmoil in the Soviet Union was barring progress in economic cooperation between Seoul and Moscow, they said.

Eleven of the 15 Republics are seeking economic cooperation with the outside world separately from Moscow.

A Soviet delegation headed by Aleksandr Karmazin, Soviet first deputy minister of material resources, was due here Aug. 30 for talks on the tied loan, but the talks were postponed. Karmazin is now expected after Sept. 15.

Due to the postponement, shipment of consumer goods paid for with the tied loan could begin next month at the earliest, the sources said, adding that the delay was hurting the general trading companies and manufacturing firms involved.

Exporters are spending large sums to store the goods and some manufacturers are in financial difficulties as they spent much of their money to buy the raw materials necessary to make the export goods.

A foremost question among general trading companies is whether the Soviet foreign economic bank and the Export-Import Corp. will continue to be the major channel for external trade. An official at the trading arm of the Hyundai Group predicted it would be some time before Korean exporters can begin shipments to the Soviet Union. "Even if the political situation settles down in the Soviet Union, more time will be needed to restore order in the Soviet institutions for external trade," he said.

Relatives of KAL Victims Return From USSR

SK0209095791 Seoul YONHAP in English
0945 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—Relatives of the Korean victims of the 1983 downing of KAL [Korean Airlines] flight 007 returned home Monday after having an on-site memorial service for the victims near Os Moneron, an island 70 kilometers west of Sakhalin, on Sunday.

They were the first group of mourners ever allowed by the Soviet Government to visit the crash site for memorial service since the KAL jetliner was shot down on Sept. 1, 1983, by a Soviet fighter for violation of Soviet airspace. In the incident, all 269 people aboard, including 105 South Koreans, were killed.

The returning relatives said Soviet officials who took part in the service promised to continue investigating the incident and let them know the result.

Legislators Discuss Friendship Group With Soviets

SK0209123191 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
2 Sep 91 p 1

[By correspondent Kim So-hwan in Moscow]

[Text] Kim Chae-kwang, vice speaker of the National Assembly, and his entourage, who are visiting the Soviet Union, visited the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Republic at 1100 on 31 August. They held an hour-long talk with parliamentary leaders of the Russian Republic, including acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Khasbulatov, and Presidium Secretary Filatov. They agreed to form a friendship society between parliamentarians of the ROK National Assembly and Russian Republic's parliament.

N-S Urge India To Propose Resolution for UN

SK3008123591 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0900 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry said today that North and South Korea had agreed to call on India, which has diplomatic relations with the two sides, to propose a resolution for North and South Korea's entry into the United Nations, which was submitted to the UN General Assembly, along with the UN Security Council's resolution of recommendation.

The Foreign Ministry said that North and South Korea had agreed on this through a contact held on 26 August by their ambassadors to the United Nations.

The Foreign Ministry also said: No Chang-hui, South Korean ambassador to the United Nations, and Pak Kil-yon, North Korean ambassador, together met with Indian ambassador to the United Nations on 29 August. At their meeting, the two ambassadors expressed their intentions to the Indian ambassador and called on the Indian side to jointly collect resolutions on the UN admission initiated by the states concerned.

In accordance with this, India plans to receive signatures of the countries that jointly initiated the resolution for South-North Korea's UN entry by 9 September and then submit this resolution to the UN General Assembly.

* North's Decision on United Nations Examined

912C0250A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
3 Jun 91 p 10

[Article by reporter Yu Yong-ku: "Diplomatic Work of Kim Chong-il and His Men: Background of North Korea's Policy Shift Which Has Culminated in the Announcement of Its Intention To Join the United Nations"]

[Text] It is believed that Kim Chong-il and the men around him who are in charge of diplomatic and South Korean affairs were behind North Korea's sudden announcement of its intention to join the United Nations.

In view of the recent confirmation by high-ranking North Korean officials that Kim Chong-il is now personally in charge of even diplomatic and defense affairs, experts believe that North Korea's foreign policy shift in favor of its admission to the United Nations was most probably the work of Kim Chong-il.

Kim Chong-il is known to have been playing a major behind-the-scenes role through his men in the ongoing negotiations between North Korea and Japan for the normalization of their relations.

That Kim Chong-il is actually in charge of diplomatic and South Korean affairs is apparent from the fact that he is in control of the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Secretariat, which is the party's highest administrative organization.

The position of the 11 members of the party Secretariat is very powerful because in North Korea "party leadership" pervades the political, economic, and diplomatic spheres.

Kim Chong-il is responsible for the whole spectrum of party operations while controlling the Secretariat for Kim Il-song, who is its responsible secretary. Under Kim Chong-il, Kim Yong-sun is posted as secretary in charge of international affairs and Yun Ki-pok as secretary in charge of South Korean affairs.

Accordingly, Kim Yong-sun, an authority on Western affairs, who is in charge of relations with Japan, and Yun Ki-pok, an authority on South Korean affairs, who is in control of South Korean affairs, are implementing North Korean policies as the head of Kim Chong-il's personnel connections in the fields of diplomatic and South Korean affairs.

Most of the cadres in charge of foreign relations and South Korean affairs under Kim Chong-il belong to the revolution's second generation and are technocrats with specialized knowledge.

Men in Diplomatic Field

In North Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is under the State Administration Council and the Foreign Affairs Committee is under the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]. The functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are shared by Kim Yong-nam as minister, Kang Sok-chu as first vice minister, and Chon In-chol as vice minister.

Kim Yong-nam is a man of the "orthodox diplomacy" type who has been responsible for the overall domain of diplomacy with China, the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries, as well as nonaligned countries, whereas Kim Sok-chu is an authority on UN affairs who has clarified North Korea's stand at UN General Assembly sessions on several occasions, and who directs Pak Kil-yon, North Korea's UN ambassador.

Kim Yong-sun has been responsible for North Korea's party-level negotiations with the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party and the Japan Socialist Party, whereas Chon In-chol has been North Korea's representative in government-level negotiations for normalization with Japan.

The greatest difficulty facing North Korea in strengthening its diplomacy toward the United States and Japan is the dearth of experts on U.S. and Japanese affairs.

For now, in negotiations with Japan, the official Kim Yong-sun-Chon In-chol line and the Choe Su-kil-Sin Kyong-chu line, directly connected to Kim Chong-il, are simultaneously in operation. (Sin Kyong-chu is the director of the Mansudae Television Station.)

Choe is an unspecified department director (equivalent to a cabinet minister) of the WPK Central Committee, but he uses his title as chief director of Taesong Bank when he deals with trade and international affairs.

The men whom North Korea will use in its diplomatic activities toward the United States have not yet been identified. However, Han Si-hae (former UN ambassador), vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; Chong Chun-ki, concurrently chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, vice chairman of the CPRF, and vice chairman of the SPA Foreign Affairs Committee; and Choe U-chin and Kim Pyong-hong, deputy directors of the Institute on Disarmament and Peace under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are the ones who have been visiting the United States for the ostensible purpose of attending various symposiums.

Men in Charge of South Korean Affairs

North Korea has modified its formula for the formation of the "Koryo Democratic Confederal Republic" to grant each regional autonomous government the right to handle diplomatic and defense affairs. The policy judgment by Kim Chong-il's men in charge of South Korean affairs who are buttressing his leadership structure is believed to have been behind this about-face.

Inasmuch as success in the policy toward South Korea is expected to have a great impact on convening the seventh party congress and on putting the finishing touches to Kim Chong-il's succession to the Kim Il-song rule, it cannot but be important for Kim Chong-il to keep his men in the field of South Korean affairs in control.

In North Korea the man in charge of South Korean affairs usually holds the post of vice chairman of the CPRF.

It has not yet been confirmed who succeeded Ho Tam as CPRF chairman after his death on 11 May.

Of the CPRF vice chairmen, all are authorities on South Korean affairs except the following: Chong Chun-ki, Han Si-ha, Kim Yong-nam, and Ho Chong-suk, chairwoman of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland; Yang Hyong-sop, speaker of the SPA; and Hwang Chang-yop, party secretary in charge of ideology—all of whom are regarded as men in charge of foreign relations.

The following may be regarded as authorities on South Korean affairs: Yun Ki-pok, who is concurrently chairman of the SPA's Reunification Policy Deliberation Committee; Chon Kum-chol, Yim Chun-kil, An Pyong-su, and Paek Nam-chun, director of the CPRF Secretariat.

All these may be regarded as the high-ranking administrative officials responsible for the shift in North Korea's reunification policy.

Kim Chong-il's other men related to South Korean affairs include: Choe Pong-chun, liaison officer in North-South dialogues; General Kim Kwang-chin, vice minister of people's armed forces in charge of disarmament; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs in charge of economic exchanges; and Om Ki-son, deputy director of the Korean Feature Film Studio.

No Tae-u To Address United Nations 24 Sep

SK3108002391 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Aug 91 pp 1, 5

[Text] President No Tae-u will address the United Nations General Assembly Sept. 24 on global and regional issues, which may include inter-Korean arms reduction and the nuclear question, Chongwadae announced yesterday.

No will also meet with U.S. President George Bush during his visit to New York, where the U.N. Headquarters is located, Sept. 22-25, officials said.

Following the trip to New York, he will make a three-day state visit to Mexico from Sept. 25 for talks with Mexican President Carlos Salinas, the announcement said.

"President No, in his U.N. speech, will likely mention steps designed to resolve political and military problems between South and North Korea," presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung said.

No, who addressed the U.N. General Assembly in October 1988, will speak this time as head of state of a member nation of the world body.

South and North Korea will be admitted into the United Nations as separate members this year. The vote at the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 17 on the two Koreas' application for membership is considered only a formality.

Diplomatic analysts say No is expected to put forth more progressive ideas on the nuclear question on the Korean Peninsula.

In his Aug. 15 Liberation Day speech, No expressed willingness to discuss with North Korea any issues, including political and military matters, "without restrictions."

Seoul has been urging North Korea to open its nuclear facilities to outside inspection without conditions. It asserts that it cannot accept the North's call for a similar surveillance over U.S. nuclear weapons allegedly posted in the South.

The analysts say, however, that Seoul may ultimately move toward accepting the idea of linking nuclear questions on both sides.

A considerable portion of the presidential speech will also be devoted to discussion of global issues such as eliminating the vestiges of the Cold War and tackling the problem of the wealth gap between industrialized countries and less developed nations, spokesman Yi said.

"As a nation which suffered most because of the Cold War system, and also as a nation which is developing into a prosperous country from being one of the poorest ones, I think we can offer some ways to solve global problems on the basis of our own experience," he said.

The President is also expected to mention such international problems as environmental contamination and narcotics trafficking, according to the spokesman.

No and Bush, in a meeting slated for around Sept. 23, are likely to review changes in world situations following the recent political upheaval in the Soviet Union, Chongwadae officials said.

The two leaders may also discuss fostering international conditions favorable for progress in inter-Korean dialogue and ultimately Korean reunification.

While visiting New York, No will also meet other foreign leaders, including Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir, and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Ruling party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung will attend the U.N. General Assembly session to hear No's speech Sept. 24.

No and Mexican President Salinas, meeting in Mexico City Sept. 25, will discuss ways to expand cooperation between the two countries as Pacific nations, the spokesman said.

No originally planned to visit Mexico in May last year, but the trip was put off because of the domestic political situation in Korea.

"No's visit to Mexico is the first ever by a Korean president to a Latin American country, and is expected to serve as an important landmark toward strengthening cooperative relations between Korea and Mexico as well as other countries in the region," the spokesman said.

No's Mexican visit is also related with Seoul's efforts to cope with the move among Mexico, the United States and Canada to create a free trade zone.

No will leave Seoul Sept. 20 and make a stop-over in Seattle on his way to New York. He is to return home Sept. 30 via Hawaii from Mexico.

30-Member Government Delegation to UN Named

SK0209130491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1219 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, ruling party's No. 2 man Kim Yong-sam, former prime ministers and other politicial and social leaders were named Monday in the 30-member government delegation to the United Nations to commemorate South Korea's entry to the global body.

The delegation was formed to express South Korea's appreciation at becoming a full U.N. member, Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chung said on announcing the list.

The list includes Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, Kim Tae-chung, president of the main opposition New Democratic Party, former Prime Ministers No Sin-yong, Kang Yong-hun and No Chae-pong, Pak Chong-su, chairman of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee, Pak Kwan-yong, chairman of the National Assembly Special Committee on Reunification, and former Foreign Ministers Kim Yong-sik, Pak Tong-chin and Choe Kwang-su.

Other delegation members include representatives from media, education, judiciary, agricultural, women's and student organizations.

The U.N. General Assembly is expected to accept South and North Korea, divided since the end of World War II in 1945, as its full members when it convenes Sept. 17.

Representative Selected for UNDP Conference

SK3008125091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1141 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 30 (YONHAP)—The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) is to open the second six-nation conference of government officials and experts for discussing regional cooperation in Northeast Asia in Pyongyang on Oct. 18, the South Korean Science-Technology Ministry said Friday.

The ministry said it will send Kwon Kap-tak, director general of the International Cooperation Bureau, and two experts, one in economics and the other in technology, to the conference.

South Korea was officially invited by the UNDP on Thursday to participate in the meeting which will discuss international cooperation in developing the basin of the Tuman River, officials said.

On hand at the meeting will be one government official and two experts from each of the six Northeast Asian countries—South and North Korea, China, Mongolia, Japan and the Soviet Union. Japan and the Soviet Union are also to send an observer each to the meeting.

The delegates are to review results of the on-site surveys conducted on Sept. 23 by three experts in the North Korean, Chinese and Soviet sectors of the river basin.

The delegates are to have fact-finding tours to the basin on Oct. 16-17.

North Plans To Develop Special Economic Zone

SK0209081191 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 31 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Yi Yong-kun from Changchun, China]

[Text] On 30 August, North Korea revealed that it will develop Sonbong (new name for Unggi) District as a "special economic zone," and that in order to develop this region it is willing to actively promote economic exchanges with Northeast Asian countries.

On the afternoon of 30 August, Yi Yu-ho, vice director of the Bureau for Exchange of Science and Technology With Foreign Countries of North Korea's State Science and Technology Committee, participated in the international seminar for economic and technological development of Northeast Asia held in Changchun, China, and announced the plan of developing Sonbong District which is situated in the northern region of North Korea as a special economic zone. He said that this is one of the methods to develop economic and cooperative exchange in the Northeast Asian region.

Vice Director Yi said that ports in the northern part of North Korea including Chongjin, Najin, and Sonbong are close to the border of China and the Soviet Union. Therefore, if railways and highways that are connected with Sonbong and neighboring countries are supplemented and repaired, it will be possible in the future to pass 100 million tons of freight through this port. He added that this area is the most favorable area as a mediating port compared with other neighboring ports.

The international seminar for economic and technological development of Northeast Asia which is to develop the basin of Tuman River ended on 31 August after agreeing to hold the second meeting on 18 October in Pyongyang involving South and North Korea, China, and Mongolia.

South's Shippers Seek North Partners

SK0209071491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0400 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (YONHAP)—Two South Korean shipping companies are looking for North Korean partners for joint-venture trade or to open a direct sea line between the two halves of the Korean peninsula, an industry source said Monday.

Samsun Shipping Co., which shipped 5,000 tons of rice to the North in July in the first direct inter-Korean barter, sent a senior official to Japan over the weekend to tap the possibility of setting up either a joint-venture shipping company or a trade firm with a partner in the North, the source said.

Samsun is seeking to establish a joint venture and expand inter-Korean exchanges with Kumgansan International Trade Development Co., which opened a branch in Tokyo last week. Kumgangsan and the South's Cheonji Trading Co. were the middle-men in the rice deal.

Separately, an executive of Pusan Shipping Co. also flew to Japan Monday to try to contact the North Korean foreign trade minister. The shipping company has a service between Pusan and six Japanese ports.

Of them, Niigata is also visited by the North Korean ship Mankyongpong and Maitsuru by vessels of the China National Foreign Trade Transportation Corp., which has a joint venture with two South Korean companies.

These are promising sites for contacts among South and North Korea and China.

Food Shortage Prompts New North Rice Request

SK0109004391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Sep 91 p 2

[Text] North Korea, suffering from a serious food shortage due to three years of poor harvest, wants South Korea to send 95,000 tons of rice "as soon as possible," a North Korean trading agent says.

The TONG-A ILBO yesterday reported Pak Kyong-yun, chairwoman of the Kumgangsan Trading and Development International, had told the newspaper that she would thank South Koreans if they deliver the rice as contracted earlier.

Last February, Cheonji Trading Co. of the South and Kumgangsan of the North agreed to a barter trade deal of 100,000 tons of southern rice for northern coal and cement.

The South Korean authorities have so far only allowed the shipment of 5,000 tons of rice and Cheonji shipped it last month though the North has not yet said when it will send its materials to the South.

In a Tokyo dispatch TONG-A quoted Pak as saying in an interview that she would present detailed schedules for the shipment of the North Korean goods in return for the rice by the end of this year.

"The rice has arrived without any problems. I deeply appreciate the South Korean government and citizens concerned for the delivery," said Pak, head of Kumgangsan, a joint venture between her and North Korean partners situated in Pyongyang. Pak is now staying in Tokyo.

Asked what effect the current Soviet political upheaval would have on North Korean society, she replied, "I could not detect any change in North Korean policy and position as far as tourism and trade is concerned."

Even last week, when the Soviet crisis reached its peak, Pyongyang asked her to induce "as many Taiwanese and Southeast Asian tourists as possible to visit North Korea," she added.

Pak, who has traveled to North Korea frequently, most recently last month, plans to visit Pyongyang on business in a few days.

She denied speculation that the North is establishing a de facto trade representative mission in Tokyo.

The Kim Il-song government, short of money and technology, is still wooing Japan, a capitalist power with huge foreign currency reserves and advanced know-how despite tedious progress in negotiations on the normalization of their ties.

S, N Disagree on Earlier Rice Shipment

SK0309021391 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 2 September that as the South and North are dickering over when the latter will ship the goods in return for the 5,000 tons of rice we shipped to North Korea last July, the two sides are finding it difficult to agree on the next rice shipment.

On 1 September in Tokyo, Yu Sang-yol, chairman of Chonji Trade, which shipped the rice to North Korea, asked Pak Kyong-yun, chairman of Kumgangsan International Group, a North Korean advance company, to ship the cement and coal that North Korea was supposed to ship in exchange for the 5,000 tons of rice at the earliest possible date. However, with the North side showing differences in opinion, the two sides have failed to reach agreement. The government has been informed of this result.

North Operations Agent Defects to South

SK0309085491 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Kim Su-yong, 34, a Korean resident born in Japan who had repatriated to the North, defected to our country and arrived at Kimpo Airport on Korean Airlines this afternoon.

This is the first time that a Korean resident in Japan who has repatriated to the North has defected to the South. Mr. Kim Su-yong and his two brothers went to North Korea from Japan in June 1973. He has worked at Oyang Products Company, a Japanese company in (Haenam), China, and acted as a North operations agent against the South.

In an interview in Kimpo Airport, he said that because it is difficult to raise a million dollars for the birthdays of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il of North Korea and to establish a Chinese branch of the (Changgwang) Bank, he was afraid of being recalled to North Korea and being punished.

In addition, he said that Kim Chong-il privately ordered him to form a group of agents acting against the South, to set up a financial foundation for operational activities against the South, and to support the activities of agents.

Publisher To Import Books From North

SK0309074391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—A South Korean publishing company announced Tuesday it will import 30 sets of the Yi Dynasty royal chronicles from North Korea by June 30 next year.

It will be the first South Korean purchase of a book published in North Korea since national division 46 years ago.

Kim Sung-kyun, editor-in-chief of Ilwol Sogak, told reporters his company signed a contract with the North's Academy of Social Sciences on Aug. 28 through a Japanese agent to buy 30 sets of "Yijoshillok," written in Chinese characters during the Yi Dynasty (1392-1910) and translated into modern Korean by the academy.

The academy's National Classical Research Institute began translation of the massive historical account in

1954 and completed it last year-end. In South Korea, parts of the chronicles have been translated into modern Korean.

The chronicles will be bound into 400 volumes. The first 375 have been printed already and the remainder, volumes 376 to 400, will be out shortly, Kim said. The academy plans to bind only 400 of the 400-volume sets.

Ilwol will pay 572.4 million won for the 30 sets (47,700 won per volume) and sell them here for 68,900 won per volume.

"We may accept delivery at the truce village of Panmunjom or ask North Korea to ship them to Inchon or Pusan port. Or they may send the books via Dairen or Hong Kong," Kim said.

Paek In-chun, chairman of the North's General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts, had written to say the federation would soon invite a group of promoters of inter-Korean cultural exchange to Pyongyang, Kim said.

Net External Debt Exceeds $10 Billion in June

SK0209021791 Seoul YONHAP in English
0110 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—A snowballing current account deficit and overseas borrowing boosted South Korea's gross foreign debt to 36.84 billion U.S. dollars at the end of June, up 630 million dollars from a month earlier, the Bank of Korea said Monday.

Net debt, gross debt less overseas assets, surged to 10.62 billion dollars, up from 920 million dollars at the end of May. Assets include foreign exchange holdings and credit on deferred payment exports.

Net debt has grown 119 percent from 4.85 billion dollars at the end of last year. It increased until 1985 and began to fall in 1986, when the international balance turned to a surplus, reaching 3.02 billion dollars in 1989.

The current account deficit and overseas borrowing pushed the net debt up sharply this year.

The current account deficit was 5.84 billion dollars in the first six months and 1.18 billion dollars in July.

Overseas borrowing by banks reached 5.56 billion dollars in the first half of the year, 4.8 times the total they borrowed from abroad last year.

Borrowing included 2.74 billion dollars in long-term loans with repayment periods of one year and longer, and 2.82 billion dollars in short-term loans. The government will not allow banks to borrow any more from abroad for the time being.

The foreign exchange holdings of the central bank amounted to 13.3 billion dollars as of Aug. 25, down 340 million dollars from July 31 and down 1.5 billion dollars from the end of last year.

$780 Million Trade Deficit Registered for August

SK0209100891 Seoul YONHAP in English
0953 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—August registered 780 million U.S. dollars in trade deficit, dipping this year's eight-month figure to 8.77 billion dollars in the red, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Monday.

Exports increased 8.2 percent from same month last year to record 5.76 billion dollars, compared to 16.1 percent increase in imports to 6.54 billion dollars, according to the ministry.

For the eight-month figure, exports totaled 45.37 billion dollars, a 11.8 percent increase. Imports topped exports at 54.14 billion dollars, a 24.3 percent increase.

The trade deficit for August threatened to repeat July's 1.6 billion dollars but was reduced at the last minute after export activities recovered toward the end of the month, ministry officials said.

Shipbuilding, apparel and petrochemicals led the export recovery, but fabrics, footwear, container and other labor-intensive items were pushed aside as buyers favored products from cheaper China and other Southeast Asian nations, they said.

The officials blamed the recent wave of typhoons that grounded export shipments and large-scale depreciation of the European currencies for the sluggish sales.

Major import items included machineries, crude oil, electric and electronic equipments, but August showed less heated buying spree than July in terms of raw materials and consumer product imports, officials said.

The ministry, however, is optimistic for the months ahead, the officials said. Exports are expected to steadily increase while imports of crude oil and machineries will slow down in comparison, they projected, balancing the trade account from September.

Liquidation of BCCI Seoul Branch Noted

SK3108062991 Seoul YONHAP in English
0513 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 31 (OANA-YONHAP)—The court-ordered liquidation of the Seoul branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will open the way for depositors in South Korea to retrieve their money, the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination (OBSE) said Saturday.

The order was given Aug. 28 and the court appointed attorney Yi Ton-hi and two others as liquidators. BCCI reported its closure to the Sogong tax office on Friday.

BCCI will confirm deposits within two months. Customers with small deposits will be paid earlier as the bank can act before the two-month confirmation procedure is completed.

Unionized BCCI staff are demanding management find them jobs at other banks or give them five year's pay.

There was no problem protecting depositors, OBSE sources said, as BCCI's Seoul branch had 27.6 billion won on deposit against 34.9 billion won in loans.

BCCI's Seoul branch was a popular channel of reimbursement for Korean firms operating in the Middle East and for construction workers, whose deposits amount to 12.8 billion won and 2.9 billion won, respectively, the OBSE sources said.

Computer Makers Selling Machines Below Cost

SK0309064591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korean computer makers hemorrhaged cash in the first half of the year, losing up to 12 billion won each, because they are selling at prices way below cost, sources said Tuesday.

Samsung Electronics lost 12 billion won on turnover of 200 billion won, Gold Star lost 8 billion won on sales of 93 billion won, Hyundai Electronics Industries lost 7 billion won on sales of 70 billion won and Daewoo Electronics lost 4 billion won on sales of 160 billion won.

Losses plague Korean computer makers despite high turnover as they export under foreign brand names in the original equipment manufacturing method at far below cost just to stay afloat in the increasingly competitive market.

The more computers they export, the more money they lose.

'Much' of Defense Budget To Be Open to Public

SK3108024591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 31 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Friday much of the defense budget would be laid bare to form a national consensus on the need to resist cuts.

The defense budget has always been top secret, but Yi said he keenly felt the need to explain it to the people when he saw the heated debate over reductions.

"Opening the defense budget will be done properly after the National Assembly passes the 1992 budget," Yi told reporters.

The Defense Ministry was ready for an open debate on the size of the defense budget, he said.

Demands for cuts in defense spending have arisen as peace has begun to break out around the world.

Yi vigorously defended current spending levels, saying the next two or three years were a dangerous period because of general elections, mayoral and gubernatorial elections, and a presidential election.

Inflation Reported To Reach 10-Year High

SK3108024291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 31 (YONHAP)—Sharp rises in agricultural and livestock prices pushed consumer prices up 1.3 percent in August, nudging inflation up to its highest level in 10 years, and wholesale prices rose 0.8 percent, the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said Saturday.

Retail prices have risen 8.3 percent since January and wholesale prices 2.1 percent. Consumer prices surged sharply in the first three months of the year, but the rate was stable at 0.4-0.6 percent between April and July.

The eight-month rise in consumer prices is 0.1 percentage points higher than the 8.2-percent rise in the same period last year and the highest since 1981, when retail prices surged 13.1 percent.

The government's target of 8-9 percent growth has failed and a revised goal of 9.5 percent will be difficult to achieve. The annualised inflation rate is 9.5 percent, similar to the rate at the end of August 1990.

Agricultural and livestock prices surged 3.5 percent in August, or 1.04 percent of the total. Price hikes in industrial products contributed 0.4 percent, individual service charges 0.7 percent and rents 0.3 percent.

Prices of crops and livestock products rose sharply in August because the rainy season lasted until early this month and due to typhoons and floods.

Prices of Chinese cabbage rose 93.8 percent, lettuce 36.6 percent, grapes 29.8 percent and cucumber 28 percent.

An EPB official said the unusual hikes in agricultural prices due to bad weather caused the sharp surge in overall prices in August, but they would stabilize in September.

Because prices tend to stabilize in the last quarter of the year, the government may still keep inflation below 10 percent, he said.

Government Called 'Prime Offender'

SK0309034491 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Sep 91 p 8

["News in Review" column by assistant economic editor Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Everything is collapsing in the Soviet Union. The death knell has been rung on the monolithic 74-year-old Communist Party. Republics are spinning out of Kremlin orbit. The suzerain state of world communism, the Soviet Union is now rapidly turning into a democratic and market-oriented capitalist one.

What is the major reason for the current Soviet political unrest, typified by the three-day putsch aimed at getting President Mikhail Gorbachev out of office? It is true that there have been enough problems to spawn popular grievances from the Soviet people. At the top of the problematic agenda that preceded the bungled coup is the economic fiasco which has not brought even a modicum of improvement to living standards. The gross Soviet national product fell 10 percent and prices jumped 48 percent in the first half of this year.

The present Soviet instability, ignited by economic failure, may be a good lesson to Korea, whose economy is racing toward its worst. Everything is crumbling in Korea, at least in the economy. Exports are creeping and imports are galloping. All-time highs are chalked up in trade deficits and inflation and lows are notched up in industrial productivity. The workers' will to work has been blown away by the current wind of a spending spree by both the government and citizens.

The latest discouraging news is that consumer prices rocketed 8.3 percent for the first eight months of this year, the highest rise in 10 years, and trade deficit neared 10 billion U.S. dollars at the end of last month. These figures indicate frustration of the government's efforts to keep inflation at single-digit figures and the deficit at 8 billion dollars. As a result, net foreign debt is estimated to be over 10 billion dollars. The local stock market has been in the doldrums for a few years despite ensuing financial liberalization steps.

More serious than the economic plight itself is the fact that economic ministers have lied in explaining the current Korean economic situation to the people and President No Tae-u. For example, officials at the Economic Planning Board (EPB), announcing the January to August prices increase, told reporters that high inflation is a "temporary" trend caused by bad weather, and that they were optimistic that the government's goal of a single-digit inflation rate will be successfully attained at the end of the year. Their excuses were thought to have convinced the people with little knowledge of economy. In fact, the officials' logic is partly right.

But with a close look into the actions the No Tae-u administration has taken so far, ostensibly to keep his popularity from fading, the real reason for malignant price spiral is clear. In a sense, it is no exaggeration to say that the prime offender fanning inflation has been the government itself, nothing else.

Contrary to its mealy-mouthed pledge to tame inflation below 10 percent, rises for this year effectuated under government jurisdiction have all been double-digit or near 10 percent. The march toward double-digit increases by the government does not stop here but will continue next year. Increase rates in state spending and public charges approved for this year are 18.9 percent for the budget, 12.7 percent for government officials' salaries and 23 percent for National Assemblymen's pay. Latest of all was a 20 percent increase in expressway tolls, a 9 percent rise in automobile insurance premiums and a 9 percent hike in schooling fees. On top of this, the Energy-Resources Ministry is planning to raise electricity charges shortly. More interesting is the fact that the government was planning an increase of budget for next year by 24.2 percent to 33.5 trillion won. With rises like these, it would be foolish to expect the price stability.

The announcements on hikes of public charges are apparently enough for the people to feel that all the ministries are competing to raise prices under their jurisdiction. More laughable is most of the ministries' suggestions of below-10-percent raises in an obvious bid to avert the public criticism possibly accruing from the double-digit hikes. Most of the reasons for the hikes, enumerated by the ministries, are seen to be nonsensical to the people. For example, highway tolls are paid by motorists in return for the chance to enjoy high-speed travel. An owner-driver who painfully drove to Pusan in 15 hours because of heavy traffic during the summer vacation asked, "Why do we have to pay tolls?" "We should rather get a refund for delayed travel on expressways," he contended, arguing that the tolls hikes must be canceled.

Whenever the prices hikes are announced, government authorities stereotypedly pledge that top priority will be placed on holding down inflation. Of course, this time was no exception. Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said that the government will do everything in its power to stabilize prices. The demand this time is not for words, but actions.

Another falsehood was found in explanations from the Trade-Industry Ministry officials with regard to the trade deficit. They say that the trade deficit amounting to 10 billion dollars is not a serious problem to Korea in consideration of its economic size. They never say a trade surplus in rival trading countries such as Japan and Taiwan. Japan is estimated to see an all-time record trade surplus of 89 billion dollars this year. Accordingly, their excuse does not persuade the people.

In particular, the quality of Korean exports is not good and trade prospects are not bright. Now, Korea earns some money in developing countries, but loses a huge amount of dollars in trade with industrially-advanced nations such as the United States and Japan. The innovation of technology is the surest way to win the frontal war with these advanced states. But now, economic nihilism and defeatism are prevailing in the minds of both consumers and businessmen. Lessons from the Soviet Union and Latin American states show that any country or any political regime can be ruined by economic failure.

Deputy Premier on Inflation

SK0309064791 Seoul YONHAP in English
0521 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu promised Tuesday to make every effort to keep retail price rises below 10 percent this year.

Consumer prices rose 8.3 percent in January-August, however, and the 10-percent goal looks out of reach.

Inflation would be tamed by maintaining growth of the money supply at 17-19 percent until the end of the year and pulling the plug on the construction boom, said Choe, who is also economic planning minister.

People were concerned about inflation, he said, but it was less important than stablizing agricultural prices. An unusual surge in agricultural prices caused a sharp rise in consumer prices in August.

He said businesses should redouble their efforts to increase exports, and the government would find ways to reduce imports, which Choe blamed for Korea's widening trade deficit.

The government would slap a heavy tax on people with more than one house to discourage speculation, he said.

He said it would also introduce a new capital gains tax on excessive land despite substantial resistance from the business community.

It was important to prepare for the enormous political and economic shock of Korean reunification, so infrastructure would be emphasised in the budget, Choe said.

Business Leaders Condemn Budget as Inflationary

SK0309074791 Seoul YONHAP in English
0641 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—Heads of major South Korean economic organizations Tuesday blasted the government's draft of the 1992 budget for "unreasonable expansion" and said spending should be frozen for three years.

The government will discuss its 33.505 trillion-won (46.213 billion U.S.-dollar) budget, a 24.2-percent increase from 1991, with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party before introducing it to the National Assembly.

It prominently features a raise for government employees of 12.4 percent, violating the government policy of holding wage hikes below 10 percent.

The critics are Kim Sang-ha, chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yu Chang-sun, president of the Federation of Korean Industries, Yi Tong-chan, president of the Korean Employers' Association, and Hwang Sung-min, president of the Korea Small Business Federation.

Considering recent economic difficulties, it was an inflationary budget, they said.

They complained that businesses would have a hard time keeping wage hikes under 10 percent next year because of the high rise in the civil service pay.

Firms Report Worsened Financial Structure

SK0309042191 Seoul YONHAP in English
0236 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—First Securities Co. said Tuesday 496 firms that close their books in December had a debt-equity ratio of 250.6 percent between January and June, up 21 percentage points from a year earlier.

There liquidity ratio was 105.9 percent, down 5.2 percentage points, and the acid test ratio was 65.4 percent, down 2.2 percentage points, indicating a decline in solvency.

The ratio of net profit to sales, an indicator of profitability, dropped 0.3 percentage points to 2 percent, 0.5 percentage points in the non-manufacturing sector.

Automation and better stock control improved the stock-turn rate from 3.8 to 3.9, reflecting an effort to overcome financial problems through management rationalization.

Since interest rates rose 0.36 percent in the first half of the year, financing accounted for 46 percent of operating profits.

Ministry on Guidelines for Stock Market Opening

SK0309042391 Seoul YONHAP in English
0226 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry, in its guidelines on the opening of the South Korean stock market, said Tuesday foreign ownership of shares in a listed company will be limited to 10 percent of total shares, including shares held by the Korea fund and other funds. Foreign investment made through beneficiary certificates for foreigners will not count toward the limit.

The opening of the stock market will start from January 1992.

Foreigners will be allowed to buy and sell shares, and to repatriate their investment, dividends and income, with some exceptions, the guidelines said. Korean expatriates with permanent overseas residentship will be regarded as foreigners.

They will be able to buy any stock listed on the Korea stock exchange unless prohibited by Korean law, but as an exception, public utilities companies or firms that need to be protected for a certain period will have a limit of 8 percent for foreign investment, the guidelines said.

The limit may go up to 20 percent for companies that have issued equity-related overseas securities.

Each foreign individual will be allowed to own up to 3 percent of the total outstanding shares of each listed company.

The guidelines give the reason for the 3-percent limit as to encourage foreign investors to diversify rather than concentrate on a few listed companies.

With the opening of the stock market next year, the government's mid-term plan for internationalization of the capital market between 1989 and 1992 will be implemented as scheduled, the Ministry said.

It said the government decided on gradual opening of the stock market because Korea's financial circumstances in terms of interest rates and trade balance are unable to absorb full opening all at once.

To minimize adverse effects, the government will devise a system to monitor investment and administer capital flows.

A computerized system will be developed to monitor foreign investment limits and transaction records, the Ministry said.

Foreign investors will be issued an "investment ID card" with a unique registration number at the time of initial investment.

Foreigners must trade on the Korea stock exchange, but over-the-counter trading will be permitted in cases of inheritance, gifts or exercise of warrants if the proper reports are submitted, it said.

Steps will be taken to prevent foreigners from breaking the law, and appropriate legal action will be taken if they do.

Those who invest beyond the government-set limit will be ordered to sell immediately and prohibited from exercising voting rights.

Those who trade stocks under false names will be banned from making remittances overseas in addition to the measures taken against those who invest beyond the limit. Koreans who lend their names to foreigners will be punished.

Those who habitually violate the law will have their names kept on a black list and their investment will be restricted.

Ministry Plan To Restructure Agriculture Noted

SK0309045091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, in a move to save South Korea's farmers from the Uruguay Round, has mapped out a 35-trillion-won (48.294 billion U.S. dollars) plan to restructure agriculture by 2001, Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Top priority will be given to mechanization to turn farming from a labor- and land-intensive industry to a technology- and capital- intensive industry, the officials said.

Brainchild of a year-long survey and research project to help Korean farmers survive an influx of foreign agricultural goods, the plan also aims to enhance the international competitiveness of Korean products and livestock, they said.

Only 25 items are currently deemed internationally competitive but a dozen will be added to the list by 2001, the officials said.

Farming of these 25 uses 383,000 hectares, or 16 percent of the total given over to agriculture, while the remaining 2.04 million hectares are given over to rice, barley, beans and some 40 other products that do not fare well on world markets.

By 2001, when the restructuring will be complete, the cost of growing rice will be 1.81 times the international price. It is now 3.13 times.

The cost of beans will fall to 2.6 times the international price from the present 4.65 times, that of sweet potatoes to 1.1 times from 1.92 times, and that of potatoes to 0.99 times from 1.64 times.

By 2001, rice, barley, beans, corn, red pepper, garlic, onion, beef, dairy products, potatoes, sweet potatoes and ginger will be competitive in international markets. Nearly 90 percent of the nation's farmland will be used to produce the 37 products that are competitive.

Ministry officials said Korean rice, beef and a few other items would not be able to compete with international prices, but would be of much better quality.

They said farmers would be encouraged to actively engage in the production of hard persimmon (dangam), onion, pork and chicken, as well as silkworm breeding, as such items would be competitive in terms of both price and quality.

Hyundai Workers Accept Revised Wage Proposal

SK0209130891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1225 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] Ulsan, South Korea, Sept. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—The threatened strike by some 18,000 unionists at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. was averted Monday after the workers voted to accept the revised company wage hike proposal.

Final count showed 53.5 percent in favor and 46.1 percent against the company proposal. The workers will be returning to work from Sept. 6 after a three-day paid vacation.

The new company package offered 93,500-won (129 U.S. dollars) wage increase and reinstatement of 14 dismissed workers after a three-month training.

The original package offered 91,500-won hike (126 dollars) and reinstatement after four months of training.

Workers at Hyundai, one of the country's largest shipyard, went on strike Aug. 28 after 23 rounds of union-management negotiations collapsed.

Unionists had demanded a 113,000 won (156 dollars) increase and reemployment of all 33 dismissed workers.

Law To Curb Firebomb Use Has Little Effect

SK0309031791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] A total of 1,826 people have been arrested for using firebombs since June 1989 when the Anti-Firebomb Law went into effect, the Prosecutor General's Office said yesterday.

The comparatively high figure means that the law, designed to curb the use of Molotov cocktails, has had little effect. Firebomb throwers, most of them university students, have continued to hurl firebombs in anti-government rallies and an average of 2.4 people were arrested a day. Of them, 1,118 or 61.2 percent were set free on suspended sentence while 317 or 17.4 percent were jailed, prosecutors said. The high rate of suspended sentences results from extremely strict application of the law by police. Police have arrested all the people carrying firebombs on the basis of photographs taken during rallies and demonstrations.

Under the law, a person hurling a firebomb faces up to three years in jail or up to three million won in fines. Those manufacturing or possessing firebombs face up to one year in jail or up to one million won in fines. In consideration of the situation, the court has released suspects on probation unless there are injuries or property damage involved.

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Gives National Day Anniversary Speech

BK3008151791 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1245 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Speech by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed on 34th National Day Anniversary—live or recorded; location unknown]

[Text] Peace be upon you! We are truly thankful to Almighty God for enabling us to celebrate our country's National Day anniversary—our country's Independence Day. This year marks the 34th anniversary of our country's independence and within a period of just over three decades, our country has undergone numerous experiences and development.

The National Day anniversary provides us with the opportunity to reminisce and recount what we have achieved during this time. We are fully aware that our country is currently free from the shackles of all forms of colonialism— be it the physical or political form. We should constantly remain alert because colonialism could still occur by taking other forms in the current global situation—through monopolies of economics and ideas. We should also be thankful for our achievements in the economic freedom, strength, and political stability. We are able to determine our own direction, form, and the rate of progress that we desire for ourselves and our future generation. Most importantly, we should fully take advantage of the existing stable situation and exploit our resources, particularly our human resources, so that our foremost objective of transforming Malaysia into a developed nation can be realized. As a free and sovereign nation, there is no reason why our desire cannot be achieved if only we cooperate jointly and work harder. It is true that not every citizen can understand and cherish the meaning of independence in its true sense. This is true with those who were born during the post-independence period. The post-independence generation has never undergone nor tasted the bitter experience of being humiliated as a colonial nation. At the very least, our people, particularly from the younger generation, should be constantly reminded and be fully aware of the historical incidents which occurred before and after the country achieved its independence. By instilling such an awareness and understanding, they will be more grateful for the country's current stability, peace, and prosperity which they are currently savoring. Independence in lay terms only means freedom, and it is meaningless if it is not filled with development and progress. Independence will only be more meaningful if citizens of a country fully savor the country's development and progress. What we mean by development is that there are political, socioeconomic, moral, ethical and other developments which can provide a more comfortable life for the people. We should not take for granted that independence will definitely bring about prosperity, because numerous nations which have achieved independence after World War II are facing an unstable situation and their performance is deteriorating.

Ladies and gentlemen! Currently we are at a crossroads, with the termination of the New Economic Policy, NEP, and with the beginning of a National Market Policy, NMP, which will determine our country's future direction and goals. Along with this we have launched the Sixth Malaysia Plan, RM6, which forms the first phase of the NMP in our effort to achieve a developed nation status by the year 2020. With the launching of the NPM and RM6, our country's main foundation has been laid toward achieving the developed nation status. Even though a lot has been said concerning Vision 2020, there are still a lot of people who do not fully understand the true objective of this vision. Many people consider that by the year 2020, Malaysia will be transformed into an industrial nation with its people's annual per capita income rising to U.S.$10,000. Industry and income have definitely become a yardstick for development. But a developed nation is also one where a country's citizens are more educated, with honorable dispositions, care, consideration, love, and regard for the environment and religion. The assumption that one should first undergo sufferings while one is alive and only later reap rich rewards in the hereafter is unfounded. It is important that there should be a balance between the present world and the hereafter in our progressive country; this will become our vision.

In view of that, it is fitting that "Vision 2020" be this year's National Day theme. Under this theme we remind the people of the government's future goal—the intent and reality of being a developed country—and ways we can achieve our target.

In this connection, all members of the community, chief executive officers, workers in the private sector, civil servants and businessmen, and all other citizens should cooperate and work hand-in-hand to discharge their duties responsibly so the target of being a developed country by the year 2020 can be achieved.

The main factor that should exist to achieve this target is the people's solidarity. People's solidarity must be based on mutual understanding among and within the races. The existence of a caring society is also required. Thus it is very important that the people lead their lives based on the principle of mutual tolerance and mutual help.

We must put a stop to activities that could threaten peace and harmony in the country. This means we must all support the concept of democracy and be united in facing future challenges. It is important that we work hard, be dedicated, and be well disciplined. We must also be willing to give priority to national interests before self-interest. Actually, if we give priority to national interests, in the long-term it will bring us greater satisfaction.

Ladies and gentlemen! In order to guarantee that the country continues to achieve rapid economic growth, the government will continue to carry out liberal and pragmatic policies that attract more local and foreign investments. We will also widen our manufacturing base by encouraging the setting up of high technology and modern industries, and further promote research and development or R & D activities. Our industrialists and exporters, too, should increase their efficiency and productivity so the country becomes more competitive.

The workers also play an important role in creating a suitable atmosphere for economic growth. If industrial crises were to occur frequently, investment opportunity would be negatively affected and therefore unemployment could not be overcome. Under such circumstances, the workers' wages would not be raised.

As for the development of moral character, it is important that we pave the way for the younger generation to gain access to good education and teachings that will groom them to have good character. They will then hold values such as honesty, responsibility, mutual respect for each other, and a desire to be successful and progressive as their philosophies of life.

Apart from that, stability in family institutions should be the main thrust in our people's life in approaching the year 2020. This is to prevent the emergence of social problems such as torturing children and one's wife, drug abuse, AIDS, and so forth.

Currently, there are indications that we are moving along the correct path. We can be proud of our economic achievement. This is because we not only achieved a high growth rate of 10 percent for 1990, and our inflation rate of 3 percent is among the lowest in the world. Besides, the government has managed to reduce the poverty level for the people. The government's plan to provide skilled training and job opportunities to the poor will eventually reduce the poverty level even more in future decades.

However, we should not be complacent with our achievement because economic growth should be maintained and improved if we want to be a developed country by the year 2020.

All of us should be willing to drop outdated practices that are no longer suitable and replace them with new methods that are more capable of assisting us in achieving our target.

Ladies and gentlemen! let not this year's National Day theme be a decoration only. We should all together put the theme into practice, as well as comprehend its meaning and intent. God willing, we will be successful.

South China Sea Island To Be Developed

BK3108091191 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] The government will go ahead with its plan to develop Terumbu Layang-Layang in the South China Sea. In this respect, one way will be to help exploit tourist potential of the island. Terumbu Layang-Layang is part of the Spratly group in the South China Sea and is located 264 km from Sabah in East Malaysia.

The Minister of Defense Datuk Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak said a runway will cater for light aircraft. It will form the second phase of development of the island. Datuk Sri Najib was speaking to newsmen on Terumbu Layang-Layang. He spent two days on the island visiting various development projects as well as meeting armed forces personnel stationed on the island since 1981.

He said the cabinet has directed the Tourist Development Corporation to promote the island as a resort. At present two companies are offering package tours to the island. He said 70 million ringgit has been spent on developing the island over the last 10 years.

Datuk Najib said besides tourism and defense, the island will also help expand the country's exclusive economic zone and can lead to the exploitation of rich fishing as well as oil and mineral resources.

Singapore

Opposition Wins Four Seats in Election

BK0109005991 Hong Kong AFP in English 2134 GMT 31 Aug 91

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Singapore, Sept 1 (AFP)—Singapore's beleaguered opposition has doubled its best electoral showing here, capturing four seats in snap elections Saturday to tarnish Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's bid for a resounding mandate.

The People's Action Party (PAP), which has maintained political hegemony over Singapore since independence in 1965, took 77 of the 81 seats in parliament, but saw its popular vote dip for the third straight election.

"The victory belongs to the people," exuded Singapore Democratic Party (SDP) leader Chiam See Tong, the sole opposition member of the previous parliament, after his re-election to a third term.

Singapore voters showed they "wanted the PAP to be the government and at the same time wanted a strong opposition," said Chiam, who will be joined in parliament by two SDP colleagues and a member of the opposition Workers' Party.

Goh, who became prime minister when PAP patriarch Lee Kuan Yew stepped down in November after 31 years, had called polls two years earlier than necessary in a bid to claim a five-year mandate for his more open, consultative style of government.

"I hoped for a solid endorsement to strengthen my position ... that endorsement did not come," a sombre

Goh told a news conference after the final results came in just a few hours before dawn Sunday.

"Personally, I'm disappointed that I perhaps have to modify my style of government, the 50-year-old prime minister said, adding that the PAP would close ranks against the opposition.

"Politics in Singapore cannot go on as before."

The PAP, which won 41 seats uncontested, tallied about 61 per cent of the valid votes cast in the other 40 constituencies, down more than two percentage points from the 1988 elections in this thriving Asian business hub.

Its percentage of valid votes—a measure first used for this election as opposed to total votes—had already fallen from 77.7 percent in 1980 to 64.8 cpercent cent in 1984 and 63 percent three years ago.

Analysts had said that failure to better the 1988 results could compromise the political future of Goh, still fighting off suggestions he is a mere seatwarmer for Lee Kuan Yew's son, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The lanky, soft-spoken Goh had tried to fashion himself as a people's prime minister compared to the autocratic rule of his predecessor, who is still powerful as senior minister.

But Goh gave no sign he was prepared to relinquish the premiership of the predominantly ethnic Chinese city-state of three million people.

Nearly 96 percent of the eligible 850,000 voters cast their votes in the 40 constituencies where there were races, election officials said. Voting is compulsory here.

The PAP's vote share dropped in 13 of the 20 single-member constituencies and one of the five group representation constituencies where voters cast ballots for slates of four candidates.

SDP candidates unseated a PAP junior minister and a former political secretary to Lee Kuan Yew, while a Workers' Party candidate scored a shock upset over a prominent PAP incumbent.

Chiam raised his share of the vote from 63 to nearly 70 percent in winning re-election. The opposition missed capturing a fifth seat by only 858 votes and, in the last announced result, lost a close fight for a key group constituency.

The four seats chalked up by the opposition doubled their previous best showing of two seats in 1984.

The result was a vindication of the opposition strategy of conceding power to the PAP by declining to run in 41 seats and concentrating on the others as "by-elections."

Goh campaigned on the strength of his more liberal approach to politics, censorship and other issues, as well as moves to improve housing, health care and education.

But the opposition said the openness was merely cosmetic and also railed at the government for the rising cost of living in Singapore.

'New Political Era' Heralded

BK0109010391 Hong Kong AFP in English 2215 GMT 31 Aug 91

[By Calvin Tan]

[Text] Singapore, Sept 1 (AFP)—Singapore opposition leaders, long steamrolled by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), heralded a new political era here after capturing an unprecedented four seats in Saturday's general elections.

"The victory really belongs to the people who wanted the PAP to be the government and at the same time wanted a strong opposition," said Singapore Democratic Party (SDP) leader Chiam See Tong.

The only opposition member in the previous parliament, Chiam won re-election to a third term and will be joined in the 81-seat legislature by two SDP colleagues and an upset election winner from the Workers' Party.

Chiam told a press conference early Sunday that voters had displayed sophistication and maturity in denting the political hegemony the PAP had enjoyed here since independence in 1965.

"Where there is a strong opposition candidate, the electorate are ready to vote him in and this signifies that they want a strong opposition, because where there is a weak candidate, they give their vote to the PAP candidate," he said.

"It was certainly not a freak result."

The Workers' Party winner, Low Thia Kheng, said in his victory speech that Singapore political history was made and that the results were "the beginning of the next lap"—a jibe at the PAP's election manifesto of the same name.

The four seats chalked up by the opposition doubled its previous best showing of two seats won in 1984. They narrowly missed capturing a fifth seat Saturday by 858 votes.

The opposition successes were attributed largely to its move to concede power to the PAP by giving away 41 of 81 seats uncontested and coordinating their efforts in the remaining 40 races.

The PAP, fighting its first election without elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew as prime minister, finished with 77 seats and suffered a two-percent drop in its popular vote total, to 61 percent. The party has now suffered declining support in three straight elections.

While a disappointed Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong—who had called the snap elections two years earlier than necessary—vowed the PAP would close ranks against its revitalised rivals, Chiam said the opposition would fight for a bipartisan system of politics here.

"We will not spare our efforts to make a two-party system work in Singapore," Chiam told reporters.

Opposition supporters, deprived in past years of any reason for rejoicing, reveled early Sunday in their side's successes, yelling themselves hoarse in rowdy victory celebrations.

While four of 81 seats may seem little to shout about in most countries, observers said it was a major feat in a country where the ruling party is not shy about using its clout to keep the opposition scrambling and powerless.

It took 16 years after independence in 1965 for the first opposition legislator to win election to parliament, with Workers' Party Leader Joshua Jeyaretnam sneaking through in a 1981 by-election.

He was re-elected in 1984 but was plagued by various legal actions filed by the government before being thrown out of parliament and banned from elections for five years in 1986 for alleged irregularities in handling party funds.

The ban ends November 10 and Goh has promised to hold a by-election in 12 to 18 months to give him a shot at parliament.

Goh To Change Style

BK0109010691 Hong Kong AFP in English
2236 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Singapore, Sept 1 (AFP)—Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed disappointment early Sunday at his setback in general elections and said he would now have to change his open style of government.

Despite an overwhelming win for his ruling People's Action Party (PAP), a visibly upset Goh said "The ground rules have changed" following the unprecedented loss of four seats to the opposition and a reduced popular vote total for the PAP in Saturday's general elections.

"There is now a proper opposition in Parliament. Chiam (Singapore Democratic Party leader Chiam See Tong) can now rightly claim to be the leader," he told a news conference.

"The People's Action Party's self-imposed opposition role is no more."

Goh, who took over from PAP chief Lee Kuan Yew as prime minister only nine months ago, said he was forced to interpret the results of the voting as a "rejection of my style of open and consultative government.

"Certain things will have to change. How they will change I do not know," he added, without elaborating, but he reiterated a threat to withdraw government facilities like kindergartens from Chiam's constituency.

Goh put himself on the line in calling the snap polls two years ahead of schedule, but said the PAP's poor performance would not affect him personally as "we all bear collective responsibility."

He attributed the success of the opposition solely to Chiam, a 56-year-old lawyer who called on the nation to treat the general election as a by-election after conceding a majority of the 81 seats to the PAP uncontested.

Goh said he was disappointed by the increased support for Chiam, who boosted his vote total from 63 percent to 70 percent in winning a third term. He also expresssed disappointment at the result in the hotly contested race for four seats grouped into the middle class constituency of Eunos—despite a PAP victory with an increased majority to 52 per cent.

The prime minister said he was disturbed by the high number of votes garnered by the Workers' Party slate, despite his efforts to condemn them for practicing what he called communal politics.

"I find it incomprehensible that on this basic issue we should win by a small margin," said Goh.

Goh said, however, that he would keep to his promise of holding by-elections in about 18 months.

'More Repressive' Rule Seen

BK0109114491 Hong Kong AFP in English
1129 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Singapore, Sept 1 (AFP)—Opposition Workers' Party (WP) Leader Joshua Jeyaretnam predicted Sunday that the new government of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong would be more repressive as a result of its setback in the polls.

Jeyaretnam, speaking at a post-election press conference said, "Goh is no different from Lee (Kuan Yew). Singapore will be more repressive now."

"Goh is a desperate man," he said, referring to statements Goh gave soon after the end of polling early Sunday morning.

The WP won one of the four opposition seats in the polls.

Goh, in office for only nine months said at the press conference that he was disappointed with the results of the polls and would have to review his "open and consultative style of government." He termed the polls result as a rejection of his style of government.

The prime minister called the snap polls, two-years ahead of the expiry of the term of his government, on the grounds that he wanted an endorsement for his more open and participatory style of government.

The People's Action Party (PAP), of which Goh is the deputy secretary-general, suffered its most severe setback since independence in 1965 when it lost four of the 81 elected seats in parliament. The previous highest success by the opposition was two seats won in 1984. The PAP's share of the total votes also slumped further Saturday—dropping to 61 percent compared to 63.2 percent in the last election in 1988.

Goh singled out the voters in the Potong Pasir constituency for attack and said the PAP would withdraw party services such as kindergartens in the constituency.

The constituency returned Chiam See Tong of the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP) for a third term with a higher majority this time—69.6 percent compared to 63.1 in the 1988 general election.

Chiam was the sole opposition MP in the previous parliament and his party badly dented the PAP this time by capturing two more seats.

Referring to Goh's press conference, Jeyaretnam said, "His remarks at the press conference showed he was not a tolerant man.

"I am sorry for him. He does not know who his friends are. He was only play-acting with his claims of going to the people to get a mandate for his open and consultative style of government," Jeyaretnam remarked.

When asked if he was of the view that Goh should step down, Jeyaretnam replied, "we all know he will have to step down sooner or later. And we all know who the eventual successor will be."

He was referring to Lee Hsien Loong, the deputy prime minister and son of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew who handed over the office to Goh last November. Lee, who was the world's longest serving elected prime minister stepped down after 31 years, and is now a senior minister in the Goh cabinet.

"I hope Goh is a wiser man now," remarked Jeyaretnam who was unable to contest the election as he is still under a five-year suspension from parliament as a result of convictions over misuse of his party funds. [passage omitted]

Calling on Goh to respect the verdict of the people, Jeyaretnam expressed the hope that the prime minister would not misuse his powers and respect the wishes of the people for greater participation in government.

Minister: Investors Reassured by Election Results

BK0209154691 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The deputy prime minister and minister for trade and industry said the results of the general election on Saturday should reassure investors that Singapore's Government continues to enjoy the support of the substantial majority of the population.

Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong said that continued investments and interests by multinational corporations in Singapore reflects their confidence in the republic and Singaporeans. This, he said, depended on the political stability provided by a strong government which enjoy the backing of the electorate. General Lee was speaking at the Shell centenary banquet celebration.

He said this would have been more positive and less ambigious had the People's Action Party increased its percentage of the popular vote in the election as it had hoped. Such a clear endorsement of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's leadership and policies would have given the government greater confidence to forge ahead with its program. But as it was not forthcoming, General Lee said the government must now move cautiously and make the best of the new circumstances in which it finds itself.

General Lee explained that our concern must be that politics in Singapore evolves in a constructive way. He said the opposition parties need to play their large role constructively as a loyal opposition in parliament. The institutions of state should be upheld and not debased. General Lee added that the interest of the nation must be defended by both the government and opposition.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Returns From Meeting in Phatthaya

BK3108122291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1122 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 31—The delegation of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of the State of Cambodia to the four-day meeting (August 26-29) of the SNC in Phatthaya, Thailand, returned here today.

The delegation led by Prime Minister Hun Sen comprised six members of the SNC of the State of Cambodia.

Upon his arrival in Bangkok on August 25 Hun Sen met with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin to discuss the procedure of peaceful settlement on the basis of the Perm-Five documents. He also had luncheon with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the SNC, at Central Plaza on the same day.

During the Phatthaya meeting, the members of the Supreme National Council agreed among other [as received], to the 70 per cent demobilization of their armed forces, and that the remaining 30 per cent would be relocated in cantonments and their weapons kept under the control of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

In such an agreement, the Perm-Five and Indonesia agreed in their meeting closed in Phatthaya Friday to support the SNC decision to demobilize armed forces of their respective parties by 70 per cent [passage indistinct]

Gives Message on SNC Meeting

BK0109075791 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Message to the nation from Hun Sen, State of Cambodia's prime minister, on the outcome of the 26-29 August meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council in Phatthaya; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the revered clergy and beloved compatriots. The second meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phatthaya from 26 to 29 August 1991 achieved satisfactory results—results which would help the Cambodian people to quickly end the conflict and achieve national reconciliation.

Major and important issues that had been resolved include the military arrangement in the transitional period, the human rights issue, the issue of sovereignty in connection with the SNC role and the relationship with the UN secretary general's special representative and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

These are complex issues which have not been resolved over a long period of time. It has already been a year. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots of some major issues which were agreed upon at this SNC meeting in Phatthaya.

First, the military arangement. It is normal that this is the most difficult issue in finding a solution to the conflict. It is as difficult in other countries. This is a complex issue; however we reached an agreement, namely that all parties agree to reduce their respective troops and weapons by 70 percent. This 70 percent will first be gathered; after the number of troops has been determined, 30 percent [as heard] of the troops and weapons will be reduced. The remaining 30 percent will be regrouped and put in cantonments and their weapons kept at positions under the permanent control of the United Nations. Weapons are not allowed to be taken from these positions. The definitive solution for the remaining troops and weapons will be left to the new government after the election to decide. Whether they are to be dissolved or included into a national army is up to the newly elected government to decide.

This way one can solve the issue of ensuring neutrality and safety in a free election because the troops, although 30 percent remain, will be put in cantonments and their weapons also kept in these positions. Weapons are not allowed to be taken from their positions. It is thus certain that this will create a neutral and safe atmosphere for elections because weapons that could lead to renewed armed conflict are not allowed out.

Apart from the troops issue, the police issue has also been solved. That is, the existing police will be maintained under UNTAC supervision to ensure social order and law enforcement. Thus, the main issues relating to the army and police have been resolved although some technical matters remain to be further discussed and resolved. However, the basic principles have been agreed upon: the 70-percent reduction in troops and weapons with the remaining 30 percent left to the new government to determine, and the police force maintained under UNTAC supervision to ensure social order and law enforcement.

The second issue which has been solved relates to human rights. The issue was vigorously discussed at the meeting and everyone made efforts to find a compromise formula acceptable to all parties and to prevent the recurrence of the tragedy of the past. In the draft agreement, a number of measures were proposed to ensure that the danger of the past does not return, what we used to call the return of genocide.

The third issue concerns the relationship between the SNC and the UN secretary general's special representative and UNTAC. This forms the nature of the relationship between Cambodia's sovereignty and the role of the United Nations. According to the original draft of the five major powers and the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] cochairmen, the SNC will advise UNTAC and the UN secretary general's special representative will determine whether this advice is in conformity with the agreement on a comprehensive solution to the Cambodian problem. In case there is no consensus on this advice, the original draft says that the UN secretary general's special representative will strive to find a consensus, assisting SNC members to find a consensus. If a consensus is still not found, the UN secretary general's special representative will make the final decision.

On this issue, we should realize that it does not conform to Cambodia's sovereignty because the SNC represents Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity; therefore, no individual or international organization should be above the SNC. Furthermore, taken into consideration the fact that UNTAC activities in Cambodia demand immediate decision to avoid blocking UNTAC operations in Cambodia, advice should be sought and provided to UNTAC so that the latter can operate.

In this case, it was decided that if a consensus was not reached among SNC members, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, will strive to get a consensus from SNC members. However, if these efforts still cannot lead to a consensus, the SNC has granted the right to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in his role as SNC chairman, to make the final decision by fully taking into consideration all the SNC members' views.

This is to avoid an impasse or the blocking of UNTAC operations due to the lack of advice from the SNC resulting from the absence of a consensus in the SNC. Thus, it has been decided to allow Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to have the final say and this final decision should fully consider the views expressed by SNC members.

I would like to specify to the clergy and compatriots that the right to have the final say granted to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in his role as SNC chairman applies only within the framework of the relationship between the SNC and the UN Secretary General's special representative concerning UNTAC activities. Decisions on SNC's internal affairs and other decisions in the prerogative of the Cambodian problem which does not relate to UNTAC, will still be made on a consensus basis.

The samdech has already stated that he will not make any final decision in case there is no consensus. The samdech will then be happy to strive to get all SNC members to reach a consensus because if the samdech make this final decision, he would lose his neutrality and there woud be conflict between this or that party. Therefore, the samdech's decision is correct so that he can adhere to a neutral attitude and strive to get a compromise leading to a consensus in order to settle an issue.

Apart from these issues, a number of other matters were resolved. These have already been stated in the meeting's final communique. I would just like to point out this major point. The previous meetings in Phatthaya and Beijing did not achieve results because of objections by some SNC members. This concerns the request to the United Nations and international community to provide aid for the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Cambodia. Some parties and SNC members had previously objected to this. However, this time around we agreed to request for aid for the rehabilitation and rebuilding of Cambodia. This is a good point showing the goodwill of all SNC members to quickly start the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the country.

The remaining issue relating to a comprehensive agreement, which we used to call a comprehensive solution, concerns the election. Generally speaking, the principle of free, correct, and just election organized and controlled by the United Nations has been agreed upon. During this election, there will be many parties taking part. To be eligible and take part in the election, each party should have no less than 5,000 members. This is what has been agreed upon concerning the basic principle for implementing the election, for those who will organize and supervise the election, and for the parties taking part in the election.

However, the remaining issue which has not yet been agreed upon is the electoral system. Now there are two differing views on the election in Cambodia. One opinion holds that the election should be conducted according to a proportional representation system [ka baoh chhnaot tam prapoan samamat], which our Cambodia and many countries have never implemented. This is the view of one side.

As for the other side, that is our State of Cambodia, we proposed the implementation of the Cambodian people's traditional system, used since 1947, when Cambodia was under French protection or rule. This system was implemented during the Sangkum Reas Niyom led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk between 1955 and 1970.

The delegation and I argued for the traditional electoral system [prapoan ka bah chhnaot del mean leakhanak chea prapeyni] in Cambodia, namely the election according to constituencies. Candidates will be elected on a majority of votes. Our side has the following reasons:

The first reason: This has been our Cambodian people's tradition. We have never implemented an election in accordance with the proportional representation system. This system does not directly elect individuals, people's deputies who would be going to the national assembly. Each party simply put forward the party's name with a separate list of candidates. It is not even specified who on the list will be the representatives going to the national assembly. When a party receives votes, for example 20 percent of the votes, it will have 20 seats in the national assembly. It will then select 20 persons for inclusion into the national assembly.

Our people have never implemented this proportional representation system. Our people are used to the election to chose candidates from constituencies in which, only one out of, say five or 10 candidates, would be selected. This selected person will become the people's deputy who will defend the interest of the people in that constituency. The people will contact this representative to intervene in the national assembly concerning the work of the government or other institutions. This is the first reason. It results from the habit of our Cambodian people, who have never voted in a proportional representation system and who have not yet really understood this system. But we do understand contituency election. In an electoral constituency, many candidates stand and the candidate receiving the majority of votes will be the winner in that constituency and become the people's deputy.

The second reason: Our Cambodian people need a people's deputy, their own representative. This is because in the agreement, it is envisaged that the assembly resulting from this first election is a constitutional assembly [saphea thommanunh] which has the task of drafting the constitution. Once the constitution is drafted, this assembly will become the national assembly. Therefore, this assembly will continue its mandate by creating a government. The assembly's mandate can be four, five, or six years in accordance with what the constitutional assembly has adopted.

Thus the people need to have their representatives. They need to talk to their representatives in deciding on an issue. Therefore, the election with defined constituencies should be requested with candidates standing in the election. If election is done in accordance with this or that proportional representation, our people would not know who their representative were because each party, after the election, with, say 20 or 30 percent of votes, will put 20 or 30 candidates into the national assembly. Thus, the 20 or 30 persons do not know who they represent and where their electorate was. So, who can our people rely on?

At the meeting, I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that at our SNC meeting, some SNC members looked down on our compatriots by saying that if the election is held through constituencies, monasteries' elders and uneducated persons might get elected to the national assembly and it might not be possible to draft the constitution and laws.

This is something to which I drew the attention of the meeting saying that the Cambodian people should not be looked down upon; the same goes for monasteries' elders and others inside the country because these people are not ignorant; they can be the master of the country and their own destiny. It does not have to be persons from somewhere else. This is a very important issue.

The clergy and compatriots, please judge this for yourselves because some persons, members in our SNC, do not take into consideration our people's sincere love for their candidates and representatives, regardless of the latter's level of the education, in sending them to the national assembly to work for the defense of the people's interests.

I would like to specify that on this point, although he has stated his neutrality, the samdech supports my stance and our Phnom Penh side's proposal because the samdech has clearly said that he cannot abandon poor people in the country; therefore, the samdech supports His Excellency Hun Sen because this proposal requires that people elect persons the people know, persons who know the people's life and live with the people. If the people do not know or do not like their representatives brought from France or somewhere else, this is not right. This is what Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has most correctly said taking into account poor people in our country, quite the opposite of some [SNC] members who favor personalities and persons from this or that place and then look down on the constituency election proposed by the Phnom Penh side by voicing the concern that uneducated persons might be elected.

I have already indicated that this is not correct; this grossly scorns the people inside the country. This is certainly not correct. This is looking down upon the people inside the country. This is the second reason the delegation and I raised and insistently proposed that constituency elections be adopted to let the people elect their representatives. Go ahead and put foward as many candidates as you desire. It is up to the people to elect their representatives.

The psychology of our people should be clearly understood. Apart from nationalism, there is also regionalism: for example, our people in zones where Muslims are dominant. They want Muslims to be their representatives. People in the northeast region want their representatives chosen form among their midst. These persons should therefore stand in these places. It is just not right to call on the people to vote for the party, and the party brings people from somewhere else claiming these are the people's deputies when the people do not even know who their representatives are. This is why we insist on this proposal.

The third reason: All of us want to practice democracy. How? The election through the proportional representation system is voting for parties. People vote for the parties they like, parties A, B, C, and so on, with no candidates shown. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that (?one) SNC member said that in the election, the (?people) do not need to know their representatives; it is sufficient to know the party.

I replied that this is not certain. The people may like this or that party but it is not certain that the people like individual candidates. For example, the people like party A, but it is not certain they like person B in the party. And this is happening in our country. The people like the new regime but they do not get on well with some individuals. Therefore, we want to implement (?double) democracy. On the one hand, get the people to like the party; but if the party puts forward persons that the people do not need, the people will have the right not to vote for those persons. Thus, love for a party should go through the party's men and let the people decide.

Experiences in any regime show that sometimes the head of state or prime minister are liked, but not certain people's deputies or provincial governors. Therefore, it is requested that in each constituency the people know the party, and in particular the people's representatives, to ascertain whether these representatives are reliable or not. It is these people's deputies who represent the people in each constituency. These representatives will talk to their party to adopt policies appropriate to the people's interests. They will talk to the assembly and issue orders to the government or intervene with the government to adopt correct policies toward the people.

These are the reasons for which we insist on using the constituency electoral system to select a candidate with a majority of votes. Our three reasons are very important, first, because of the habit of our people, who do not know how to vote for a party, since this has never been practiced in Cambodia. People only know how to vote for one out of four or five candidates. They are not used to the party system.

And we know that if the election is done through the proportional representation system, the people would be disappointed because they do not know who would become assembly members. If they vote for the party, the latter might present a list of all the candidates, from the first to the hundredth, but the people do not know who would be selected among the 100. After the election, with, say, 20 seats, 20 persons would be selected, and it might turn out that the people are the ones the people [words indistinct]. Thus, we want the people to directly vote for the party on the one hand, and more importantly, the individual, who is member of that party, which is more important [words indistinct]. This is what we demand. This is the reason our people want to have representatives, because this assembly will become the (?national assembly) representing our people for a period of four, five, or six years. This is practicing democracy, combining the knowledge of the party and direct voting for individuals the people like.

On this issue, I have already specified that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk supports the formula the samdech directed during the royalist era when our Cambodia was a French protectorate in 1947 and during the Sangkum Reas Niyom [Sihanouk's political party in the 1960's] era led by the samdech. However, the samdech said he will not decide. Yesterday the samdech stressed that if it is up to him to decide, he will go along with His Excellency Hun Sen because the samdech cannot abandon poor people. The poor people need to have their representatives. But the samdech could not decide for fear of losing his neutrality [words indistinct] decided not to make any decision.

Thus this issue will be raised at later talks, agreed in September. The SNC delegation led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, with myself, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, H.E. Khieu Samphan, and H.E. Son Sann, will go to the United Nations and hold informal discussions with the five major powers. Afterward, on 21 October, there will be a third meeting of the SNC in Phatthaya to decide on the remaining issues, which could lead to the convening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in November 1991.

We want to achieve this quickly. However, we would like to specify that—I would like to specify that—the electoral system we propose is in accordance with our Cambodian people's traditions. Although some persons say this or that, and that there are problems about population census, and so on, the population census has to be done whether the election is held in accordance with the proportional representation or through constituency.

Other opinions prompt some to ask how elections can be held if the Hun Sen administration is still in place and Hun Sen's police are also still in place. I stressed to those [?SNC] members that whether the election is held in accordance with proportional representation or through constituency, my administration and police are there because the election offices will not be established outside the country, but locally with the existing administration and police present. What is important is the fact the we have agreed to let the United Nations organize and supervise the elections because we want to avoid fraud and cheating [words indistinct]. We have taken into account other people's concerns. This is why we agreed with the proposal to let the United Nations organize and supervise the election so that the people can freely and properly vote.

I have already specified that the people should not have too poor an opinion of the Cambodian people. Why? Because the Cambodian people will certainly make a correct decision when they go the polling stations with the guarantee of UN officials. Therefore, there should be no problems, because the polling booths and stations will have UN officials. Thus, the Cambodian people's decision should not be taken lightly. The Cambodian people will use their decision to reject what they do not want to have because they have expressed their views through the ballots to select the candidates they like. Looking down on the Cambodian people to the extent of saying that even inside a polling booth they still dare not express their views is despising the Cambodian people.

Furthermore, whether you vote through the proportional representation system or through the constituency, election offices remain at the same places; these are not going to be moved anywhere else. This is the election issue. However, this will be discussed further. However, this is our stance.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the problems relating to the consequences of the disasters that we are facing.

As the clergy and compatriots know, before my departure from the country, I went to Kompong Speu Province, Phnom Penh's suburbs, and Kandal Province where the disasters took place. The party-state leaders of our State of Cambodia and I have issued an appeal calling for emergency aid from compatriots and the international community. At the same time, I sent a letter to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk proposing that he issue an appeal to the international community to help alleviate our Cambodian people's difficulties.

Lately, our Cambodian people, from all walks of life—including industrialists, manufacturers, traders, and investors from abroad—have so far given numerous donations in the form of money and materials to our government and the provincial and municipal people's committees. In some areas, they directly distributed aid to the people who were hit by floods. In sum, we have received aid worth several millions of riel.

At the same time, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has made an appeal to the international community and when I arrived in Bangkok, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk kindly allowed me to draft a letter to heads of state, heads of government of the EC countries, and the UN Secretary General, asking them for relief aid.

We have now received some aid from Japan and the United States. Together with this, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk himself donated 2,000 U.S. dollars for immediate use and Neak Mneang Monique [Sihanouk's wife] also donated an additional amount of 500 U.S. dollars through me, which has also been sent to the motherland. This is a great effort by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to share the burden with the State of Cambodia's leaders and people throughout the country, as well as the international community.

I have just handed over a letter to the samdech expressing profound thanks to the samdech for his past and present attention in helping to reduce this difficulty. Moreover, this morning, the samdech promised me that he would continue his efforts to provide further assistance. This shows that the samdech is paying attention to and sharing concern for this matter, and making great contributions to our State of Cambodia's leaders. The samdech also highly valued the efforts made by our State of Cambodia's leaders to help our people throughout the country. The samdech highly appreciated this activity.

While I am here, many companies gave additional donations. For example, the (?Bangkok Bank) donated 200,000 baht; (Thai Bunrong) Company of Mr. (Chea Choeun) donated (?200,000) riel. This morning, Mr. (Yin Kim) of the Cambodiana Hotel, after donating (?10 million) riel in Phnom Penh, promised to donate another (?10 million) riel as emergency aid.

On this occasion, I must apologize to compatriots and others whose names I have not mentioned. This has already been done by the radio and television in Phnom Penh. I am giving instructions for government letters to be issued to those people for their help.

On this occasion, I would also like to further appeal to the international community to provide additional aid to us. So far, some international organizations, such as the World Food Program, have given emergency aid of 1,000 metric tons of rice and some other materials. Other international organizations have provided additional aid.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to compatriots, particularly industrialists, manufacturers, and traders, to please give additional emergency aid because floods have now inundated not only Kompong Speu, Takeo, Kampot, Pursat, and Kandal Provinces and Phnom Penh City, but also the provinces along the Mekong River. I have received reports that (?the entire) Phnom Penh City is being threatened.

Therefore, due to a disaster unprecedented in our history, I would like to persistently appeal to compatriots to give assistance as much as possible in the form of money, foodstuffs, clothing, production tools, other materials, rice seeds, animals for breeding, and other crop seeds, to help relieve those facing difficulties. I hope that all compatriots will strive to contribute, with a sharing spirit, to assist those facing difficulties in this time of distress and need.

On their part, the armed forces, including the army and police, should provide assistance to resolve the problem. Ministries, departments, and provincial and municipal institutions should assist people in transplanting rice and helping the people who are facing difficulties by assigning a number of men to work at the office while sending others—personnel and officials—to visit the people. Students and pupils not yet going back to school should go out and help the people. Only in this way can the disaster be dealt with.

Moreover, I would like to advise those industrial, manufacturing, and other companies which are capable of building small bridges and (?roads), to assist the state in repairing some damaged roads. Please strive to do so.

The government would like to make a promise that any companies or persons helping to repair bridges would have those bridges named after them. This is in order to show that they have helped the government in this time of need. Such an assistance will certainly not be lost. Now we are suffering from damage to (?schools), hospitals, and bridges. Some major bridges certainly cannot be repaired by these companies. However, they can help with some small bridges. If they do help, the government promises to name those bridges, hospitals, or schools after companies, factories, or individuals. The government is willing to do this so long as schools, hospitals, and bridges are repaired for our people to use.

In conclusion, I would like to once again profoundly thank all generous donors, inside and outside the country, whose names have or have not yet been announced on Phnom Penh radio and television, for their assistance and support. I hope that it will be a great relief to the people throughout the country if this assistance continues. I would also like to thank the clergy and compatriots for attentively listening to my message.

I wish the clergy and compatriots longevity, social standing, good health, energy, and wisdom. Thank you.

Visits Flooded Kandal Stoeng

BK0309133191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] On the morning of 2 September a high-ranking party and state delegation headed by Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, who was accompanied by Comrade Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda, minister of trade, deputy minister of national defense, and chief of the general logistics department, paid a visit to 651 families of flood victims in Roleang Ken Commune, Kandal Stoeng District, Kandal Province.

The delegation distributed gifts consisting of husked rice, fish sauce, cloth, scarves, sarongs, cigarettes, and more than 1.2 million riel in cash to those families. Comrade Hun Sen also inspected the damage caused to the infrastructure and rice crops in a number of areas in Kandal Stoeng District.

Results of Perm-5 Meeting With SNC Reported

BK3108161591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Report on the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in Phatthaya]

[Text] According to an SPK correspondent, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Indonesia have agreed to support the decision of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] to dissolve 70 percent of the armed forces of each party with some comments on this issue.

At the meeting of the five permanent members with the SNC, which ended on the afternoon of 30 August, the five permanent members and Indonesia said that they are still satisfied with the plan, which has been elaborated right from the beginning for the phased return to civilian life of all categories of forces of various Cambodian parties. They view this as a major issue to minimize the risk of a return to war, to stabilize the security situation, and to build mutual confidence among various parties.

The five permanent members, who want the remaining forces dissolved immediately after elections or regrouped to become a national army established by the newly elected government, said it is essential to clarify as part of a comprehensive solution the disposition of the remaining 30 percent of the forces.

The five permanent members said that it is clearly understood that the definition of the word forces is stated in Paragraph 2 of Article 1 of Annex 2 of the draft settlement agreement. The term forces is agreed here to include all regular, provincial, district, paramilitary, and other auxiliary forces. The five permanent members and Indonesia propose that various Cambodian parties urgently provide the UN secretary general's representative with all the information the latter requires to enable him to identify the various categories of forces falling under the above definition.

At the 29 August session of the SNC, the members did not agree on the definition of armed forces because Khieu Samphan demanded that the State of Cambodia's A-3 police force be included in the 70 percent of troops to be dissolved, which was agreed upon earlier. Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, refused to include the A-3 police force in the agreement on troops to be dissolved. The comrade said the A-3 is not a fighting force like soldiers are and that the A-3 force no longer exists.

However, according to Samdech Sihanouk, the Pol Pot group specified to the SNC that for the time being, this group will not raise this A-3 police issue. The definition of armed forces to be dissolved in accordance with the agreement of the five permanent members was explained on 29 August to the SNC members by General Timothy Dibuama. The Pol Pot group did not comment on Dibuama's statement, which says the United Nations will maintain a police force or bring in more personnel.

The permanent members stated on the morning of 30 August that weapons, ammunition, and military equipment of regular, provincial, and district troops, paramilitary, and other auxiliary forces ought to be handed over to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] when these forces enter cantonments. The five permanent members said that for forces that are not yet dissolved, access to their weapons can only be on the basis of the explicit authorization of UNTAC.

Samdech Sihanouk told reporters on the morning of 30 August that there will be two keys, with one for UNTAC, because weapons and remaining forces are only for self-defense. The five permanent members further said UNTAC will specify the civilian police force necessary for law enforcement. They also said the civilian police force will operate under UNTAC supervision or control.

Concerning the SNC proposal requesting the dispatch of at least 200 UN personnel to Cambodia as observers in September to assist the SNC in controlling the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military aid, which is the first step in the framework of a comprehensive solution, the five permanent members said that this issue should be decided without bias in accordance with the framework of a comprehensive solution.

The five permanent members did not comment on the emergency aid requested by the SNC to repair bridges, roads, paths, railroads, airports, ports, and other infrastructure. According to Samdech Sihanouk, the remaining issues, including the electoral system, will be raised again at an informal meeting to be held in New York where a number of SNC members will be present to take part in the 46th session of the UN General Assembly.

Khieu Samphan Proposal on Police Force Viewed

BK3108075591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "One Step Forward, But Two Steps Backward by the Polpotist Clique"]

[Text] On the morning of the second day meeting in the Thai city of Phatthaya, the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia agreed on the 70-percent demobilization of the armed forces of each party and the cantonment of the remaining 30-percent troops under the control and supervision of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

The news has been acclaimed and upheld by national and international public opinion. At the meeting, Alain Vivienne, French secretary of state in charge of foreign affairs and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [as heard], highly valued such a resolution adopted by the Cambodian parties and considered that this would clear the way for reconvening the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. Richard Butler [as heard], spokesman of the U.S. State Department, also welcomed the compromise on the military issue struck by the Cambodian parties on the morning of 27 August.

Nevertheless, it was extremely regrettable that on the third day of the meeting, Khieu Samphan, representing the Polpotist faction in the SNC raised a series of questions, creating a stumbling block to the meeting process. He demanded that the A-3 police force of the State of Cambodia party be included in the 70 percent of forces to be cut. This is contrary to the agreement reached and outside the UN framework plan as well.

Everyone knows that the State of Cambodia's police force was composed of police officers charged with only the duty of maintaining peace, political security, and social order against acts of sabotage committed by the enemy of the Cambodian people. It is worth recalling that Rafeeuddin Ahmed, special envoy of the UN secretary general, recently made clear that during the transitional period the United Nations would cooperate with the State of Cambodia police force, the people's police force, in maintaining peace and order. And on the morning of Thursday 29 August, Rafiuddin Ahmad also promised to ask UN military experts to clarify the term "armed forces" at a later day.

As he was not able to achieve his maneuver to sabotage the meeting by raising the issue of the A-3 Police Force, Khieu Samphan presented another irrelevant proposal demanding creation of the SNC's police force that the framework document dated 28 August 1990 and the draft peace plan dated 26 November 1990 have not specified.

Everybody knows that the five major powers' framework document, Clause 7, Paragraph 1 states that the SNC should be the embodiment of the independence, sovereignty, and unity of Cambodia. The SNC represents Cambodia in the international arena—it occupies the Cambodian seat at the United Nations and represents Cambodia in various special UN agencies and international institutions and at every international conference. That being the case, the proposal by Khieu Samphan to set up the SNC police force is to alter the original significance of the framework document in an attempt to turn the SNC into an executive government. This is a gross manipulation to overthrow the State of Cambodia Government that Pol Pot and his accomplices never want to give up.

The most abhorent of all is that Khieu Samphan proposed to create a police force for each conflicting Cambodian party. This is a maneuver to further complicate the military aspect of the Cambodian problem. With the military issue alone, all the parties have spent considerable physical and moral strength and time before reaching agreement. So if the police force issue is added, how long will the settlement of the Cambodian problem be delayed? Then for how many more months or years will the Cambodian people's suffering and expectation last? Moreover, Khieu Samphan proposed that the police force be unarmed, but this is against the regulations and reality in the country.

Everyone is well aware that up to now the bandits who have hidden themselves and cached their war equipment in the jungle continue to manifest their cruel and barbarous nature. They do not hesitate to commit criminal acts, killing the people and setting their property on fire. The recent case in the Site 2 camp is a typical example. If 70 percent of the armed forces are to be demobilized and the other 30 percent kept in the barracks, how can unarmed police deal with armed bandits.

In sum, all the proposals raised by Khieu Samphan at this round of talks in Phatthaya are conspicuously two steps backward by the party of Democratic Kampuchea after having advanced a step forward in previous meetings in Phatthaya and Beijing in mid-July. The action by Khieu Samphan clearly shows the cunning nature of Pol Pot, who is pulling the former from backstage. Now and then, Pol Pot has ordered Khieu Samphan to adopt a flexible and compromising stance. But at this time, Pol Pot has stretched the string tightly as he fears that an early political solution to the Cambodian problem would be reached when the situation on the battlefield does not favor his gang and when his gang has not yet grasped the leadership direction of the country. This is a maneuver to serve the strategy of blocking a political solution to the Cambodian problem of the Polpotist clique that (Roger Longleaf) has published in (HARVARD RIGHT JOURNAL) recently.

The Cambodian people wish to call on the SNC not to allow the criminal gang to hamper the progress of a political settlement of the Cambodian problem, come hell or high water.

Direct Election Urged, Son Sann Plan Viewed

BK0209112391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Station commentary: "The Just Way in Which the Electoral System in Cambodia Should Be Organized"]

[Text] At the four-day meeting in the Thai city of Phatthaya, the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia achieved considerable results, especially concerning a cease-fire, ending the receipt of foreign military aid, a 70-percent demobilization of each party's armed forces, relations between the SNC and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], the future political system of Cambodia, and so on.

National and international opinion has welcomed and applauded the outcome and considers it a step forward by the rival Cambodian parties in achieving an overall political solution to the Cambodian problem. SNC Chairman Samdech Sihanouk has said that this round of SNC talks in Phatthaya resolved 95 percent of the disagreements.

However, it is extremely regrettable that at a time when the situation favors settlement of the Cambodian problem, another obstacle—the issue of organizing the electoral system in Cambodia—has suddenly emerged, preventing the SNC meeting from reaching a consensus. Son Sann, representing the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, demanded that elections be organized according to a proportional representation system based on the eligible political parties in Cambodia. As for the State of Cambodia side, he proposed that the elections be organized in an independent manner, meaning that the political parties designate their candidates to contest elections at various constituencies [words indistinct] representing the sovereignty and interests of the country to be formulated soon. The two ballot systems were debated for a lengthy period of time at the SNC meeting, which pledged to further discuss this matter at its talks in New York in September when the SNC delegation attends the 46th UN General Assembly there.

The Cambodian people—whose right it is to determine the destiny and future of the country and nation and decide the outcome of free, just, equal, and democratic elections in the near future—should first scrupulously study the two electoral systems before making their choice.

We find the electoral system proposed by Son Sann to be contrary to the traditional polling system practiced since 1947 in our Cambodia. Such a voting procedure cannot fully promote democracy for the people, who should control the outcome of the elections, because the people and political parties would then be half-free to decide, meaning the people could choose a political party but would have no right to elect their individual representatives. In other words, under this system the people could not know exactly to what individuals they would be delegating the right to govern the destiny of the country.

Most serious of all, Son Sann's electoral system could also shelter some individuals whose hands are stained with the blood of the people [words indistinct]. For instance—although Samdech Sihanouk has announced that Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, and Ta Mok will not contest the elections—there are just as many criminals now in the party of Demcratic Kampuchea as there once were, and they still owe a debt of blood to the people. Yet they could be assigned by Pol Pot to represent the people, the victims, according to the proportion of votes won by that party. As such, the proportional electoral system can confuse the collective responsibility of a party with the personal responsibility of individuals.

Son Sann's argument that organizing electoral districts will waste too much money and his fears about the security of candidates are not logical at all. Even when the country has faced war—such as was the case during the Lon Nol regime—or turmoil, as with a number of countries, elections have still been possible. Moreover, during the elections, in addition to the SNC and the two existing governments in Cambodia, UNTAC will also provide its assistance and support. So, what is it that can make the organization of electoral districts so difficult? Everyone knows that over the past 12 years the rival Cambodian parties have spent considerable money and resources fighting the civil war. So why are they afraid to use a small amount of money to hold elections at the end of the war? As for the security issue, it will not be a question because all the conflicting Cambodian parties have agreed to implement a voluntary cease-fire on the military battlefield and resort to the electoral battlefield. As such, will there be terrorists threatening candidates at various electoral districts, or is Mr. Son Sann's group or his alliance prepared to carry out the threat? Apart from UNTAC, police agents of all the Cambodian parties will join forces to provide protection to the candidates and voters. That being the case, the electoral system and the reasons for it expressed by Son Sann are unreasonable.

Our people are of the opinion that only the electoral system proposed by the State of Cambodia is appropriate because it conforms with electoral tradition in Cambodia and democracy in general, by which candidates and voters should know each other well. This is to ensure that the candidates receive the right as representatives to serve the voters appropriately.

Recently, the SNC has adopted a liberal democratic political regime for Cambodia. As such, the people should be free to know various candidates and their political parties. Besides, the single ballot constituency system is in keeping with the electoral system of the Fifth French Republic that Samdech Sihanouk intends to apply in Cambodia.

Consequently, our people hold that the electoral mechanism should not be allowed to stand in the way of a settlement. What we should instead emphasize is doing whatever is possible to make the election climate neutral and to prevent any group from taking the opportunity to seize power, creating confusion in the election process.

Factions Pledge Cooperation With Red Cross

BK0109072991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Text] Pattaya, Thailand, Sept 1 (AFP)—Cambodia's warring factions, with a peace settlement looking close at hand, have pledged full cooperation with the Red Cross to allow prisoners of war and political detainees to go free, relief agency officials said Sunday.

The factions, Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government and a guerrilla coalition dominated by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, also pledged in a meeting Saturday with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) oficials to stop laying mines in their beleaguered Southeast Asian country, they said.

The ICRC is to be given a special mandate to assist in the release of prisoners of war (POWs) in a United Nations-brokered peace plan to end the 13-year-old Cambodian war.

Former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the neutral head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), along with representatives of the factions met ICRC officials after progress was achieved in a fresh round of talks in this Thai beach resort, leading to hopes that a formal settlement could be signed by the end of October in Paris.

ICRC officials said preparations for the release of POWs and political prisoners should begin as early as possible.

According to Phnom Penh government officials, the Cambodian Government holds a total of 4,000 prioners—2,000 for criminal offences, 800 POWs, and 1,200 listed as "security prisoners" or political detainees.

There are no figures available for prisoners held by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's deposed radical marxist ruling group, or its two smaller non-communist allies.

The Khmer Rouge have occasionally reported taking Vietnamese soldiers prisoners since Hanoi, which invaded Cambodia 13 years ago to drive the Chinese-backed faction from power, announced a total withdrawal of its troops from the war-torn Southeast Asian nation.

This is consistent with Khmer Rouge claims that tens of thousands of Hanoi troops are still in Cambodia despite the pullout announcement, but has not been confirmed by independent sources.

The Khmer Rouge is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands during its reign of terror over Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. There have been reports of acts of brutality by the faction's leadership after it lost power.

But, the ICRC officials said, the Khmer Rouge had for the first time during Saturday's meeting invited the ICRC to visit areas under its control to look into the POW issue.

The non-communist guerilla groups in factions loyal to Prince Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) also invited the ICRC to visit areas they hold, the officials said.

Clearance of landmines is likely to be one of the major problems when the war ends in Cambodia, with tens of thousands strewn thoughout the country by all factions.

According to the ICRC officials, the number of victims has ironically gone up since the factions accepted to observe a permanent cease-fire two months ago because a relative improvement in security has led to higher freedom of movement causing more incidents in mine explosions.

During the meeting Prince Sihanouk promised to issue shortly in the name of all factions a pledge to stop laying mines and a call to the world community to assist in mine clearing operations in Cambodia, the ICRC officials said.

Invitation for Sihanouk To Visit Hanoi Cited

BK3108130091 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1116 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 31—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said in Phatthaya Friday that he would be visiting Hanoi soon, reports an SPK correspondent.

He said he had been invited and he accepted the invitation.

This was confirmed by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, who said that the prince would be accompanied by Cambodian PM [Prime Minister] Hun Sen but the date had not yet been fixed. "Maybe in the second half of December", he said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien said he was delivering the invitation to Prince Sihanouk Friday, according to AFP.

Nien is in Phatthaya monitoring Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) talks on finding a settlement to the country's 13-year-old war.

The talks ended Thursday with the various factions still divided over the type of electoral system to be adopted for a United Nations-supervised poll in Cambodia.

A Phnom Penh delegation source also said Prince Sihanouk, the SNC chairman, would visit Hanoi with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

It will be the first visit to Vietnam by the former Cambodian monarch since the early 1970's. Prince Sihanouk plans to return to Phnom Penh on November 14 after 13 years of exile.

Sihanouk Meets PRC Vice Minister Xu Dunxin

BK3008150991 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 30 Aug 91 p 4

[By correspondent Liu Zhenyan in Phatthaya]

[Text] Prince Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], received Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin in Phatthaya last night. Xu Dunxin is in Phatthaya to attend a consultative meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk expressed his happiness over the success achieved by the just-ended SNC meeting. He said that some problems, which remained unresolved during this Phatthaya meeting, will be tackled at the next meeting.

Prince Sihanouk also thanked the international community, especially Thailand, ASEAN, China, and other friendly countries, for their efforts to achieve success at this meeting and to achieve an early settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Xu Dunxin said that the significant progress achieved during the Phatthaya meeting was inseparable from Prince Sihanouk's efforts. He also extended his heartfelt congratulations over the success.

Xu Dunxin also hoped that the SNC under Prince Sihanouk's leadership will be able to make further progress in its efforts to seek a political solution to the Cambodian problem and resolve the remaining problems as soon as possible.

Outcome of Perm Five-SNC Meeting 30 Aug Noted

BK3108065891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0456 GMT 31 Aug 9

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 31—The Perm Five [five permanent members of the UN Security Council] and Indonesia have agreed to support the SNC [Supreme National Council] decision to demobilize armed forces of their respective parties but with some comments by 70 percent, reports an SPK correspondent.

In the Perm Five-SNC meeting which closed Friday afternoon, they said they remained committed to the originally detailed plan for the phased return to civilian life of all categories of forces of the Cambodian parties which they saw as essential to minimize the risk of a return to warfare, stabilize the security situation and build confidence amongst the parties.

"It is essential to clarify as part of a comprehensive political settlement the disposition of the residual 30 percent forces," said the Perm Five, who wanted the remaining forces to be either demobilized shortly after the elections or incorporated into a national army created by the newly elected government.

The Perm Five said "it is clearly understood that the definition of "forces" is that contained in Paragraph 3 of Article 1 of Annex 2 of the draft settlement document, forces are agreed to include all regular, provincial, district, paramilitary and other auxiliary forces."

The Perm Five and Indonesia invited the Cambodian parties to furnish urgently to the UN secretary general's representative all the information he requires to enable him to identify the various categories of forces falling under this definition.

In the SNC yesterday meeting, the SNC members did not agree on the definition of armed forces with Khmer Rouge Leader Khieu Samphan demanding that the Phnom Penh government's parts of "A-3" police be included in the 70 percent demobilization recently agreed upon.

Cambodian PM [Prime Minister] Hun Sen refused to include the so-called A-3 Police into the demobilization agreement, saying "the A-3 is not a fighting force like soldiers" and "the A-3 does not exist anymore."

However, according to Prince Sihanouk, the Khmer Rouge had "indicated to the SNC that for the time being they will not raise the issue of the A-3 security police."

The definition of the armed forces which will be included in the demobilization under the Perm Five draft agreements was explained yesterday to the SNC members by Gen. Timothy Dibuama.

The Khmer Rouge did not comment on the statement of Dibuama that the UN would have to retain a police force as bring in more personnel. [sentence as received]

The Perm Five said Friday morning that all arms, ammunition and military equipment of regular, provincial, district, paramilitary and other auxiliary forces should be turned over to UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] as such forces enter the cantonments. For forces not yet demobilized, they said "access to their arms can only be on the basis of explicit authorization of UNTAC."

Sihanouk told the press this morning that there would be two (?keys) including one for UNTAC since arms and the remaining forces were only for self-defence.

UNTAC will identify civil police forces necessary to ensure law enforcement, they said, adding "civil police will operate under UNTAC supervision or control."

On the request by the SNC that at least 200 UN personnel be sent to Cambodia as observers in September in order to assist the SNC in controlling the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military assistance, as a first step within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement, the Perm Five said this must be strictly in accordance with the framework of a comprehensive political solution.

They did not comment on the emergency assistance requested by the SNC to restore bridges, roads, railways, airport facilities, port facilities and others.

According to Prince Sihanouk, the remaining issues including the electoral system would be brought up again in an informal meeting supposed to be held in New York where some SNC members will be present for the 46th UN General Assembly.

U.N. Team Inspects Situation in KPNLF Area

BK3108003191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1753 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Bangkok 30 Aug (AFP)—A six-member United Nations military team Friday began its investigation of the military and security situation in areas held by a non-communist Cambodian guerrilla faction.

The team, accompanied by five Thai military officers, crossed the key Thai border district of Aranyaprathet to inspect three positions run by Khmer People's National

Liberation Front (KPNLF) guerrillas in the northwestern Cambodian province of Banteay Meanchey, near the Thai-Cambodian border.

According to a senior commander of the KPNLF, the inspection would last until Sunday.

Some 300 KPNLF guerrillas were assigned to provide protection to the team, the commander said.

The KPNLF, along with another non-communist Cambodian faction loyal to former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge are allied in battling against the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government.

Another 12-member U.N. military team, led by Major General Timothy Dibuama of Ghana, concluded earlier this week a visit to Phnom Penh and discussed arrangements for monitoring the ceasefire.

The team had investigated the military and security situation in the northwestern provinces of Siem Reap, Odder Mancheay and Battambang.

Dibuama said on his way to Cambodia last week that he hoped to visit frontline positions and military installations of all four factions to judge how many U.N. personnel would be needed to monitor the four-month-old ceasefire and verify that foreign arms deliveries had stopped.

Khieu Samphan Views SNC Meeting Results

BK0109040291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 31 Aug 91

["Text" of 30 August interview with Khieu Samphan, vice president of the National Government of Cambodia and head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, by correspondents of the Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea and the Voice of Democratic Kampuchea radios on the outcome of the second meeting of the Supreme National Council held in Phatthaya under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk—read by announcers]

[Text] [Announcer] My respects to Mr. Vice President. The second meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] held in Phatthaya under the chairmanship of SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has ended. Would you please inform our people and compatriots on the results of this meeting?

[Khieu Samphan] The second meeting our SNC held in Phatthaya under the chairmanship of SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk achieved another big success. We can say that at the first SNC meeting in Phatthaya and at another meeting in Beijing, we could permanently set up the SNC with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman, and that at this second SNC meeting in Phatthaya, we achieved two more significant results.

The first result is the decision to dismantle 70 percent of all categories of armed forces of the four Cambodian factions while the remaining 30 percent would be disarmed and gathered in cantonments and their weapons would be put under the control and supervision of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

The second result is that the four Cambodian factions (?delegate) to the UNTAC with civilian and military components the role of monitoring the implementation of the above-mentioned decision and any future decisions.

The meaning of these two results is that the Vietnamese aggressor forces hiding in the Phnom Penh armed forces must now withdraw from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian factions. They can no longer hide themselves in Cambodia.

There is another important result in addition to these two significant ones. The SNC has given Samdech Norodom Sihanouk the right to have the final say in case no consensus can be reached on any problem that may arise in implementing the agreement on the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem. This result has consolidated Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's status as SNC chairman and the SNC's status as the unique source of power in Cambodia.

In sum, the results of the SNC meetings—the first Phatthaya meeting, another meeting in Beijing, and the second Phatthaya meeting—are:

1. All Vietnamese aggressor forces hiding in Cambodia must withdraw from Cambodia under the supervision of the United Nations and the four Cambodian factions.
2. The SNC headed by the samdech is the unique source of power in Cambodia.
3. We can achieve national reconciliation among all Cambodian factions.

Only by making this assessment can we see that all these results are significant. These results were made possible thanks to the arduous struggle of our Cambodian people and our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea together with two other Cambodian resistance forces and all Cambodian patriots both inside and outside the country. They are the outcome of the firm suport given by all friends across the world, particularly the ASEAN countries, the five permanent members, and the majority member countries of the United Nations.

On this occasion, I would like to express profound thanks for the valuable support given us by all these unforgettable friends.

[Announcer] Observers of various countries who followed up this meeting and many correspondents have paid attention to the issue of whether Phnom Penh's A-3 Force should be included in the armed forces which must be dismantled or put in cantonments and disarmed. Could you give any confirmation on this matter?

[Khieu Samphan] Certainly, Phnom Penh's A-3 Force is an armed force which must be included in the forces to be demobilized or regrouped and disarmed and their weapons must be handed over to the UNTAC.

This matter has been clearly verified by the explanation made to the SNC on 29 August 1991 by His Excellency Thimothy Dibuama, military advisor to the UN secretary general, and by the document dated 30 August 1991 that the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and Indonesia—cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC]—distributed together with their statement to all SNC members.

[Announcer] On the morning of 30 August, the five UNSC Permanent Members and PICC cochairmen held a solemn meeting with the Cambodian SNC. What issues were discussed during this meeting?

[Khieu Samphan] As Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has stressed, this meeting is of historic significance. Through this solemn meeting, the five UNSC Permanent Members and PICC cochairman—Indonesia—showed their solemn and official support for the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the unique source of power in Cambodia. It also constitutes a solemn and official approval of the above-mentioned decision of the SNC. This means that no party can alter the above-mentioned decision and that this decision must be implemented. That is, we must move forward and not backward.

[Announcer] Are there more problems to be resolved to jointly reach a comprehensive agreement?

[Khieu Samphan] The remaining problems are just the question of the election system and some minor matters. The important and difficult problems have already been resolved. The remaining problems are not difficult. The SNC agreed to meet again in New York on 21 September when the SNC delegation headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk attends the 46th UN General Assembly. The remaining problems would be discussed and settled there.

In sum, an agreement on an overall solution to ending the Vietnamese war of aggression will be achieved very soon. The UNTAC with both civilian and military components will soon conduct supervision of the implementation of this overall agreement and particularly the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. The SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will soon set up its headquarters in Phnom Penh.

On this occasion, I would like to make an appeal to the fraternal Cambodian soldiers and administrative officials who have been organized for serving the Vietnamese. You should immediately desert the Vietnamese and return home to live with your families and join with the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. Do not serve the Vietnamese aggressors any longer.

Sihanouk: Hardliners Could Replace Hun Sen

BK0109020691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Sep 91 p A1

[Text] Phatthaya—Former Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday sounded a warning that Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen would be toppled if the world community did not help the liberal premier against communist hardliners.

Sihanouk's warning was apparently aimed at UN Security Council's permanent members, the United States and Britain, who did not whole-heartedly support the agreement reached by the Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) for the four rival Cambodian parties to demobilize their armed forces each by 70 percent while keeping the rest intact under UN supervision.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council which also includes China, the Soviet Union and France during their meeting with the Cambodian council on Friday urged the warring parties to dissolve their remaining 30 percent of forces before the general election to ensure a free, fair and just atmosphere for the polls.

In an interview with the Washington-based Voice of America, Sihanouk urged the international community to save Hun Sen from the hardliners otherwise the SNC might see a new member from latter group in Phnom Penh within the SNC to replace Hun Sen.

"I think we have an interest in maintaining Hun Sen as prime minister because if one day he is toppled, you will have to replace him with hardliners within the SNC.

"So there would be more difficulties to tackle," he prince warned.

Sihanouk said he learnt that Phnom Penh's hardliners were not satisfied with the outcome of the council's second meeting in Phatthaya which ended on a progressive note.

Outcome of Latest SNC Meeting Welcomed

BK0309063891 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian People Enthusiastically Welcome the Progress of a Settlement of the Cambodian Problem and Call On the United Nations To Dispatch a UN Supervisory and Control Force to Cambodia As Early As Possible"]

[Text] The Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in the Thai city of Phatthaya on 26-28 August under the chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk achieved some more important results. In particular, the four Cambodian parties of the SNC of Cambodia have unanimously agreed to reduce their armed forces, armaments, ammunition, and war equipment by 70 percent and that the remaining 30 percent of forces, arms, and ammunition should be regrouped and relocated in specifically designated areas under the supervision of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. This represents another important headway in the process of settling and ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia via a comprehensive political solution following the progress made at the meetings in Phatthaya on 24-26 June and Beijing on 16-17 July.

At its meetings in Phatthaya on 24-26 June and Beijing on 16-17 July, the SNC was unanimous in a number of issues. Especially, it agreed to appoint Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the SNC chairman and implement the cease-fire and cessation of foreign military supplies.

Now, at the last SNC meeting in Phatthaya, we agreed on the issue of demobilizing armed forces and a number of other key issues. That being the case, the process of settling the Cambodian problem continues to advance and this makes the Cambodian nation and people inside and outside the country extremely happy. All of us hope that our Cambodia would regain peace, national independence and unity, and sovereignty within its territorial integrity in the near future.

However, what should be done to solve the Cambodian problem as soon as possible in keeping up with our hope?

We need the presence of a UN supervisory and control force to enhance and materialize the implementation of the agreements already reached. If the agreements are concretely implemented, mutual trust will be encouraged and our SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will continue to discuss the remaining issues based on the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in the spirit of national compromise and reconciliation until a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem is completely achieved.

By all appearances, it is imperative that our people inside and outside the country jointly call on the United Nations to send its supervisory and control force to Cambodia at an early date. If it is not possible for the entire UNTAC made up of military and civilian personnel to come at once, the UN force, made up of 500-700 staff, could be sent in at the beginning, then it could continue to be shipped in until it is sufficient in number.

Early Dispatch of UN Force to Cambodia Urged

BK0309090591 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Station "Article": "Push for an Early Dispatch of a UN Supervisory and Control Force to Cambodia To Promote a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodian Problem in Accordance with the Document of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] At its meeting in the Thai city of Phatthaya in late August, the Supreme National Council [SNC] agreed to reduce the armed forces of all parties by 70 percent and cut down armaments, ammunition, and war equipments of these forces by 70 percent as well. As for the remaining 30 percent of the forces and their arms and ammunition, they should be regrouped and relocated to cantonment areas under the UN supervision.

This is another new step of progress on top of the successes consecutively achieved by the SNC at its meetings in Phatthaya in late June 1991 and in Beijing in mid July 1991. The SNC has agreed to implement the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military aid and appoint Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its chairman. So, we can see that the settlement of the Cambodian problem has advanced speedily. However, the outcomes have not been easily achieved. So, it is imperative that we maintain the impetus of the progress and strive to promote a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem until a complete solution is formulated in accordance with the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

To safeguard the attained results, it is necessary that a UN supervisory and control force be sent to Cambodia at an early date. People are already well aware of the importance of the issue concerning the UN supervisory and control force monitoring the implementation of the cease-fire and cessation of outside military supplies and verifying the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. His Excellency Khieu Samphan, president of the party of Democratic Kampuchea, clarified at the SNC meeting in Phatthaya on 26 August that if there is no UN supervisory and control force presence in Cambodia, the SNC's declaration on the implementation of the cease-fire and cessation of foreign military aid will remain on the paper, then the war will go on endlessly. Conversely, if the UN force comes to gradually monitor the cease- fire and the cessation of foreign military assistance, the war will die down, creating favorable conditions for, step by step, promoting a comprehensive political solution until a full settlement is concretely reached in accordance with the 28 August 1990 framework document. The UN supervisory and control team will, first of all, monitor the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military aid—this is the most concrete measure aimed at achieving an early comprehensive solution with minimal expenses of money and human resources but not outside the framework document of the five UNSC permanent members.

Seeing the importance of the UN supervision and control, the SNC proposed that SNC Chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk write to the UN secretary general requesting the United Nations to send at least 200 of its personnel—as a first step within the framework of a comprehensive settlement—to Cambodia in September 1991 to oversee the cease-fire and the cessation of foreign military assistance.

The Cambodian resistance forces and people hope that the UN supervisory and control force would be shipped to Cambodia at an early date to ensure the implementation of all the agreements already reached. We are ready to welcome and cooperate with the UN force at all times.

Providing the UN force performs its supervisory and control task and ensures the implementation of the agreements reached, a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem can be certainly enhanced based on the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

Philippines

Aquino Denies Secret Bases Deal With Bush

HK0309104991 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] President Aquino denied reports today that she has made a secret deal with U.S. President George Bush. This allegedly pertains to the continued use by the United States of U.S. military installations in the country beyond ten years. Tanny Rodriguez has details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We can recall that Dr. Merlyn Magallona, one of the testifiers in the Senate's deliberations on the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security, alleged that a secret deal exists between President Aquino and President Bush that allows American forces to remain for an unlimited time.

The president said that the government continues to stand firm on the provisions of the Constitution with regards to the issue of the military bases. Meanwhile, the president advised everyone to refrain from reaching premature conclusions about the result of the ongoing Senate hearing on the treaty. Aquino said that the Senate's scrutiny of the treaty continues and should be respected as a constitutional process, and we must wait for its final result. [end recording]

Aquino: Future Not Solely Dependent on Bases

HK0209143591 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 2 Sep 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] President Aquino said in her press statement that the future of the country does not solely depend on the ratification or rejection of the treaty which is currently undergoing scrutiny in the Senate.

The president made the statement in response to fears expressed by various sectors that the rejection of the bases treaty will have severe impact on the the country's economy next year.

Just the same, the president expressed hope that the Senate, as one group, will decide on the treaty in accordance with the best interest of the people. Because of this, the president mentioned that the government will continue to be positive about the Senate decision, and about the immediate and long-term progress of the country.

Bases Removal Seen Potentially Sparking Tensions

HK0309095891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Manila, Sept 3 (AFP)—The abrupt removal of U.S. military bases in Asia could exacerbate tension in the region, particularly in the Korean Peninsula and the Spratly islands, a top Philippine official said Tuesday.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, testifying before the Senate in support of a new treaty extending the U.S. lease on Subic Naval Base by 10 years, said U.S. bases in the Philippines, South Korea and Japan maintain "the strategic equilibrium in the Asia-Pacific region."

"A withdrawal of such presence in either area runs the risk of unravelling the tensions in the region, and leading to a disturbance of that equilibrium which could be destabilizing to the region," he said.

The Senate is expected to ratify on September 14 the new treaty, which provides for a new lease on Subic and a withdrawal from Clark Air Base by September 1992. Clark has been damaged by the Mount Pinatubo volcano eruption.

"In the Asia-Pacific region, the security situation has admittedly improved but tensions continue to exist which ... may deteriorate into flashpoints and could possibly involve the regional powers and superpowers," de Villa said.

He said the failed coup attempt in the Soviet Union "serves to remind the world that the global security situation is still fragile and could change rapidly over a short period of time."

Describing the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region as "a complex web of tension," he said "two tension points in particular deserve our attention—North-South Korea and the Spratlys."

De Villa said "the Korean peninsula continues to be a tinderbox despite efforts of both North and South at reunification."

The oil-rich Spratlys group are claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. A brief conflict over the South China Sea islands ignited between Vietnam and China in the late 1980s.

"We are ill-prepared to cope with an armed confrontation erupting in the Spratlys," de Villa said.

He also said the new treaty was important in the modernization program of the Philippine military, admitting that the armed forces "is dependent to a certain extent on U.S. assistance for the maintenance of critical mission-oriented equipment.

Philippine officials said more than half of the 203-million dollar annual compensation stipulated in the new treaty for the bases is to be channeled for the modernization program of the armed forces.

"Modernization of the (armed forces) is imperative in the light of the emerging security situation in the Asia-Pacific region," de Villa said.

He also said the bases compensation "will go a long way in significantly boosting the... (army's) counter-insurgency campaign."

The Philippine government is fighting a 22-year-old war waged by communist guerillas, as well as a Moslem secessionist movement and destabilization plots by rebel military officers.

De Villa later said the Philippines reckoned its 38-year-old mutual defense agreement with the United States "will remain" after the 10-year lease on Subic expires, "but not necessarily with their presence in the Philippines."

He said the military compensation to Manila for Subic will comprise one-third of the budget for the armed forces' long-term modernization program with other markets sought.

The navy is planning to buy new equipment from suppliers in Spain and Australia and is "even examining an offer made by Beijing," while the army plans to acquire equipment from Britain, de Villa said.

Reports on Senate Hearing on Bases Treaty

Critics, Supporters Air Views

HK0309071591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 3 Sep 91 pp 1, 2

[By Ros Manlingit, Jose Macaspac III, Mariquit Almario, and Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] The bases treaty came under fire as a vague, unreasonable, and legally doubtful bilateral instrument that can hardly compel the United States to honor its commitments, during the first day of the public hearings conducted by the entire Senate sitting as its own foreign relations committee yesterday.

Both critics and supporters blamed Malacanang for not working hard enough to produce a good document. Yesterday's proponents of the treaty were led by Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, and Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon.

Opponents were led by former Constitutional Commission member Dr. Wilfredo Villacorta and University of the Philippines Professor Merlin Magallona.

A third side, which was for treaty ratifiation if certain changes were made in the current draft, was led by former labor minister Blas F. Ople.

Today, the public hearing will center on security and national defense issues including veterans matters. Scheduled to appear today are:

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia, National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto, Foreign Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez, Representative Bonifacio Gillego, retired Admiral Danilo Vismano, UP [University of the Philippines] Professor Merlin Magallona, retired General Ernesto Gidaya for the veterans, Joker Arroyo, Helen Mendoza of Nuclear-Free Philippines Movement, and Yen Makabenta, DAILY GLOBE editor.

In other developments:

—President Aquino decided to postpone to Friday the convening of the Council of State which was originally scheduled for Wednesday, reportedly on the suggestion of senators who are invited but who are now tied up with the public hearings.

—Mrs. Aquino also expressed optimism that the treaty would be concurred in by the Senate.

—Opposition Congressman Jose Rono (NP [Nationalist Party], Samar) advanced the view that a particular provision of the Constitution allows the Senate to concur in the bases treaty by a simple majority vote instead of the two-thirds vote required for other treaties.

—U.S. Representative Stephen Solarz (Democrat, New York) left yesterday for Hong Kong, saying he failed to sway opponents of the treaty to change their minds. He also quoted Jaime Cardinal Sin as having said the treaty would be approved by the Senate but that Senate President Jovito Salonga was steadfastly opposed and "no amount of convincing will change his mind."

—Bishop Teodoro Bacani urged the senators to concur in the treaty, citing four reasons: 1) it is not inherently wrong to ratify it; 2) non-ratification will hurt the country; 3) approval of the treaty will benefit the Filipino people; and 4) majority of the people want ratification.

Laurel admitted that the new treaty was defective, but maintained that the Philippine government must accept it because it would give future administrations the needed time to upgrade the country's national security and defense programs.

"For all its defects, deficiencies, ambiguities, and its meager rewards packaged in overblown rhetoric, this is a treaty we should accept—if only because it will give future administrations the needed time and chance to upgrade our national security and defense. Given a new leadership with a fresh mandate, the vague terms and conditions could be made specific," Laurel said.

Analyzing the economic and political reasons why the Senate should approve the treaty, the Vice President said: "A vague treaty is better than no treaty at all. At this point, in the face of worsening political, social and economic difficulties, it is better to have something to improve on than nothing to improve. At least, a gradual phase-out, instead of an abrupt termination, gives us time—at a time when we cannot be strategically naked because we are at our weakest."

"We have already lost two decades in unending policy stalemates. From the leading position among Asia's developing nations after World War II, we are now the economic "laggard" of Asia—and we cannot recover our lost opportunities and forge ahead to the front rank of developing nations, where we used to stand, if we now withdraw into our shell—at a time when all the other new democracies are striving to become part of the world economy," Laurel said.

At the same time, Laurel lambasted the Aquino government for accepting a package that does not protect the national interest.

He said the Aquino government raised public expectations on the bases accord, but came out of the negotiations with only a fraction of what it has promised the people.

Villacorta said the treaty lacked clear provisions guaranteeing respect for the nuclear ban in the Constitution.

He said that nuclear weapons may be stored, installed or transported in or accross the country, as allowed under an article in Supplementary Agreement No. 2 which covered military installations.

Villacorta added that other questionable aspects on U.S. military activities such as the unhampered use of the U.S. Naval Base in Subic; control and access by the Philippine military to certain military facilities, vessels and aircraft and criminal jurisdiction over errant U.S. military personnel have remained in the treaty and made even more favorable to the U.S. He also cited the lack of Philippine control over disposal of toxic waste by U.S. forces which are placed under U.S. responsibility.

"The Filipino people will be eternally grateful to you (Senate) if you vote 'No' to the treaty," said Villacorta.

Magallona said that concurrence in the treaty by the Philippine Senate without the corresponding action by the U.S. Senate will be unconstitutional. He cited Section 25, Article 18 of the Constitution which requires that a new bases treaty has to be concurred in by the U.S. Senate.

While the U.S. government is free to interpret its own constitutional procedures in treaty making, Magallona said international practice requires the U.S. to adhere to the fundamental principle in the relations of states, namely, sovereign equality.

Earlier in the hearing, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus testified that an acceptance by the U.S. Executive Department of the treaty is binding on the U.S. and will amount to a recognition of the treaty.

To this question, committee members, among them Senator Sotero Laurel, known to be anti-bases, sought from Manglapus and members of the RP [Republic of the Philippines] bases panel a legal resume of why the Philippines had agreed to this.

Magallona warned that Senate concurrence in the treaty without similar action on the part of the U.S. Senate will give rise to court suits before the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the treaty.

Ople said the Senate should reject the treaty—if three important concessions were not given the Philippines.

According to Ople these are: meaningful debt relief, a concrete rehabilitation plan for Central Luzon, and financial assistance to Clark and Subic workers.

"If this treaty is not corrected, I would still urge that the Senate reject it," Ople told the foreign relations committee.

Ople's stand came in the wake of observations that the Philippines was again being hoodwinked into accepting a highly disadvantageous treaty.

Ople said if there were no supplementary agreements, by way of binding pledges of President Bush, to correct major omissions in the treaty, then the Senate would be right in rejecting it.

He described these concessions as "of the most elementary sort" and blamed the RP and U.S. governments for their predicament.

He said the omissions reflected a certain degree of incompetence of the Philippine negotiators and a failure of responsibility of the U.S. panels.

"It was President Aquino who indicted her own negotiators by rushing a request for debt condonation from the U.S.," Ople charged.

On the other hand, he added, the U.S. had not been forthright in identifying sources of funds for the reconstruction of Central Luzon, a major concern of the Aquino government.

He said fund sourcing was placed "in the vaguest of terms" under the Regional Cooperation Fund while that of the $2-billion target outside the Multilateral Aid Initiative was nebulous.

Ople added that no specific funds were identified for the displaced bases workers.

Economist Alejandro Lichauco, long a critic of U.S. military presence and U.S. policies here, assailed the treaty as an extension of a U.S. policy of domination of a developing country. He said the U.S. military presence here presents an extensive, overpowering pressure on the Philippines, that has barred the country from developing economically. "It is incumbent on us to reduce the size of their presence here," said Lichauco, as he blamed the U.S. policies for the failure to combat poverty among Filipinos.

Rono said that Section 21 of the Constitution is considered a general provision since it applies to all international agreements while Section 23 specifically applies to the bases accord and should be the one applied.

Rono, however, said that ratification of the treaty will have to be passed on to the people as mandated by Section 25.

Manglapus and ambassador to the U.S. Emmanuel Pelaez defended the treaty on all points from the potshots made by the senators.

Manglapus, staying the whole day at the Senate to tackle questions, reiterated that the treaty fairly compensated the country with both the appropriated amounts of more than $323 million for the first year and $203 each year for the next ten years, and the non- appropriated amounts totalling more than $700 million yearly.

On the question of debt relief, which Bush promised in his side letter to the treaty, Manglapus allayed fears that it will not be enforced, even if it were pledged only by Bush.

He said records showed that for 1990 and 1991, the U.S. has provided debt relief assistance to the level of $1.2 billion yearly consistent with the compensation package under the existing agreement.

Changes Equated With Rejection

HK0309020391 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 0100 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations began its formal deliberation on the bases issue yesterday. In his appearance before the committee, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus warned that any major amendment or change on the Republic of the Philippines [RP]-U.S. treaty pressed for by the Senate would mean a rejection of the entire treaty. This was Manglapus' response to the question on whether some of the RP-U.S. bases treaty provisions could be changed or amended. According to Manglapus, it is even better to ask the U.S. for a new negotiation if the Senate pushes for major amendments. However, this had long been rejected by America. At the same time, Manglapus assured that treaty ratification will pave the way for writing off the $5.3 million debt from foreign commercial banks. Manglapus stressed that within seven years, the government could save 2-3 billion dollars in interest payment for foreign debts. In his defense of the new treaty, the secretary said this is for the welfare of the Filipino nation and that if we only study the contents of the treaty thoroughly, we will know that this is more to the country's welfare.

Treaty Better Than No Treaty

HK0309065891 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel called on the Senate to ratify the new bases treaty even if it has defects. Laurel stressed that an ambiguous bases treaty is better than none. In his appearance before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Laurel convinced [as heard] the senators to ratify the new agreement between the Philippines and the United States because this can help the country's development and the welfare of the people ravaged by previous calamities. Laurel explained that he favors the new Philippines-U.S. Treaty of Cooperation, Friendship, and Security because a vague agreement is better than no treaty. According to Laurel, at present, the government has no choice but to accept the new treaty. However, he admitted that the country's progress lies in full independence and the American forces' final withdrawal from the Philippines.

Senators' Positions on Bases Treaty Ratification

Four Senators Firmly Oppose

HK3108033791 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Only four senators remain firm against the ratification of the Philippines-U.S. Military Bases Agreement which was signed by the two countries to extend the retention of the U.S. bases for 10 more years.

Among the senators said to have not yet changed their position are Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Sotero Laurel, and Wigberto Tanada. Former hard-liners, namely Senate President Jovito Salonga, Senators Rene Saguisag, Orlando Mercado, Teofisto Guingona, and Agapito Butz Aquino, have said to have softened their position on the rejection of the new treaty.

It was learned that the former political and socioeconomic issues on the retention of the U.S. military bases in the country are now geared toward personal issues. Which is why pro- administration senators who used to be against the treaty would like to express respect and gratitude during the last part of President Aquino's administration. The said senators are indebted to Mrs. Aquino, who was the reason for their 1987 election victory.

Senator Butz Aquino explained that they do not want to hurt the feelings of President Aquino. He said, nonetheless, that if they really cannot accept the provisions of the treaty, it is still possible for them to exercise another option, which is to return the treaty to Malacanang with incorporated amendments.

Meanwhile, Senator Alberto Romulo asked the Aquino government to first secure the help offered by U.S. President George Bush regarding forgiveness of the country's foreign debt. In a resolution, Romulo said that the Philippines should take advantage of the United

States' help, in exchange for the extension of the U.S. bases retention—just like the debt reduction which occurred in Poland and Egypt.

The senator said that the failure of government officials to negotiate with foreign creditors may be rectified if the Aquino government will learn to pressure the United States in exchange for the U.S. bases extension. He stressed that this is the only way that the lives of the Filipinos can change, and the debts of the country can be totally paid off.

Romulo cited that half of the total $28.5 billion should be forgiven by our creditors. He explained that if the 50 percent debt forgiveness in Poland was possible for the United States, it is possible that the United States can also help us toward this goal.

Eleven Senators' Stances Uncertain

HK0309073091 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Text] The votes of 11 senators, who continue to be doubtful about the new treaty, are needed for the ratification of the new bases treaty. Here is Jojo Ysmael with the details.

[Begin Ysmael recording] The senators who continue to shift in their decisions about the new treaty are still hopeful that they might convince Washington to increase the compensation package to include several other compensations, such as debt reduction.

In an interview with PBS [Philippine Broadcasting Services], six senators continued to say that they still do not have any decision, but they might vote in favor of the treaty. They were Senators Ernesto Maceda, Alberto Romulo, Santanina Rasul, Joey Lina, Heherson Alvarez, and Ernesto Herrera.

On the otherhand, five senators continue to change their stand on the bases. However, it is expected that President Aquino may get them to vote in favor of the new treaty. From the Senate, this has been Jojo Ysmael reporting for PBS news. [end recording]

State Council Bases Meeting Reset for 7 Sep

HK0309070091 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] The Council of State meeting scheduled for Wednesday was postponed until Friday morning [7 September]. Press Under-Secretary Horacio Paredes explained that the postponement was based on a request by the senators, who are now busy with the Senate hearing on the ratification of the new bases treaty. President Aquino will convene the Council of State to discuss the bases treaty issue. Invited to the meeting are representatives from various sectors including the opposition, among whom are Vice President Salvador Laurel, Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, and Senator Joseph Estrada. Paredes denied that the Executive Branch has prepared several programs in the event the Senate rejects the treaty. Paredes said he sees no need for the government to prepare alternative plans because the ratification of the treaty is still in process.

House Leaders Call for Bases Treaty Referendum

HK0309071391 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 3 Sep 91 pp 1, 10

[By Rod L. Villa]

[Text] Various leaders of the House called yesterday for a coalition of the House of Representatives and the people to ratify the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Security in a national referendum.

They disputed the Senate's claim to exclusive power to validate international agreements.

Assistant Minority Floor Leader Jose Rono (KBL [New Society Movement], Samar) said the Constitution provides for the participation of Congress, which includes the 205-member House, in exercising this treaty function.

Representatives Marciano Pineda (LDP, Pampanga), Albertito Lopez (LP, [Liberal Party] Iloilo), and Renato Unico (LDP, Camarines Norte) joined the move to refer the issue to the people.

In his privilege speech, Rono said "the House must act on a resolution requiring ratification of the treaty by the people in a national referendum held for this purpose."

He said "the Senate's claim deceives the people as it exaggerates the constitutional power on the issue."

Representatives Gualberto Lumauig (LDP, Ifugao) and Jaime Lopez (LDP, Manila) endorsed Rono's call for approval of a House resolution to uphold the people's fundamental right to decide on the RP-U.S. bases treaty.

They questioned the Senate's claim of exclusive power to ratify treaties, which they said relies on Section 21 of Artivle VII of the Constitution, stating that "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two- thirds of all the members of the Senate."

Dominating this provision, they said, is Section 25, Article XVIII embodying the "Transitory Provisions."

The provision, said Rep. Pablo Garcia (LDP, Cebu City), Rono, and Rodolfo Albano (KBL, Isabela), deals with the future of the U.S. bases here. It states: "After the expiration in 1991 of the agreement between the Philippines and the United States concerning the military bases, foreign bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines, except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and, when Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting State."

Alliance To Rally Against Political Changes

HK2908033791 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 29 Aug 91

[Text] An Alliance comprising 25,000 businessmen, civic leaders, students, and workers is set to hold a massive rally. The aim of the movement is to oppose a change in the Constitution, the cancellation of the Presidential election, and the change of the government system from the presidential to a parliamentary form. Ike Guitierez, spokesman of Vice President Salvador Laurel said the alliance will spearhead the nationwide protest against the plan of the ruling party to change the Constitution in order to remain in power. According to Guitierez the vice president said that this a fight not only by political parties but by Filipinos who respect the Constitution and desire stability for the country.

Thailand

Minister To Improve Relations on U.S. Trip

BK3108013391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Aug 91 A4

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday he would try to improve bilateral ties with the United States during his forthcoming U.S. trip.

This follows Washington's threat to retaliate against Thailand for failing to protect its intellectual property.

During his unofficial visit to Washington and Mexico City during Aug 31 and Sept 15, Amaret said he would meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and some senators to exchange views on the pending trade disputes with the U.S.

Amaret said he would explain to American trade officials and congressmen about the attempts the Thai government is undertaking to improve the protection of intellectual property rights by means of better law enforcement and drafting of new legislation.

The minister will meet his counterpart, Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, and Secretary of Agriculture Edward Modigan to discuss ways to expand the bilateral trade which has stumbled as a result of several trade conflicts with Washington in the recent past.

In the talks with Mosbacher, Amaret said he will attempt to explore possible ways to improve economic relations with the U.S., which is the third largest investor in Thailand after Japan and Taiwan.

"We want to see a second influx of American investment here," he stressed.

During his visit, the minister will sign a new textile pact with Hills.

The memorandum of understanding which formed the basis for the new bilateral agreement was concluded between Director General Charae Chutharattanakun of the Thai Foreign Trade Department and the U.S. chief textile negotiator Ambassador Ron Sorini during the final round of talks in Phuket on June 26.

The bilateral textile talks had been dragging on for more than 30 months before both sides managed to reach agreement.

The previous accord expired at the end of 1988.

"It is a good sign that we could end the textile conflict amicably. I expect other pending disputes to be settled in such a friendly manner.

"We need to provide good reasons to make the U.S. negotiators understand us better," the minister said.

Amaret will also raise the U.S. Export Enhancement Programme which allows American exporters of farm products to ship heavily subsidized grain to foreign countries for discussion with Secretary of Agriculture Modigan.

These export subsidy programmes severely hurt Thailand's export of rice.

The Thai delegation will also meet Mexico's Industry Minister and private businessmen to expand the bilateral trade and investment flow.

When the North American Free Trade Area which encompasses the U.S., Canada and Mexico is completed, Mexico can serve as the doorway for Thai investors and exporters' entry to the U.S., Canada and the rest of Latin America.

Suchinda Promises To Hold Elections by March

BK3108012191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Deputy National Peace-keeping Council chairman Suchinda Khraprayun said last night that elections could be held in March, following progress in passing the draft Constitution.

Speaking to an audience of about 700 people at a dinner sponsored by the Reporters' Association of Thailand, the army chief said people who asked about the date of the election should be reassured that it would take place no later than April as stipulated in the interim Constitution.

But since the draft was already finished, the election could be held one month earlier than the deadline set in the interim charter, he said, adding that "this is another promise".

Even if the draft Constitution fails to pass the National Legislative Assembly, the election would be held according to the interim Constitution, he said.

Gen Suchinda claimed the military council seized power with the good intention of replacing the Chatchai Chunhawan Administration with one which commanded the respect of the people.

Comparing the country under the previous Government as a train running precariously on the rails, Gen Suchinda said it needed a temporary replacement of its driver to get the train to the next station (safely).

The general said the military council also intended to have problems which could not be solved by the elected Government remedied during the period of the interim Government.

The Government, for example, should issue a policy which aims to cut down sugar cane production and encourage cane farmers to switch to other crops.

This has not been possible in the past because of the influence wielded by the cane farmers, who comprise the only effective farm lobby group in the country.

Sugar cane production has been heavily subsidised by the Government, which has resulted in the Thai people having to pay sugar prices that are substantially higher than those in the world market.

He said there are three elements of democracy: principle, means and goals.

While principally democracy is agreed to be the best system available, each country has to find a system which is most suitable for it.

Some countries struggle for years to develop a workable system for their own democratic rules, he said.

He said straightforward adherence to the principle would fail to develop a workable system.

The system, he said, needs to be adjusted to correspond with the (varying) conditions in different countries.

Gen Suchinda said the role of the Press is essential to the prosperity or the decline of the country because it could affect the economy in both positive and negative ways.

He said reporters think they can print everything they know no matter how detrimental it could be to the country.

Gen Suchinda, compared the country to a family, where some bad things should sometimes be concealed for the interests of its members.

He urged the Press to exercise discretion in publishing stories with potential harm to national security and the economy.

The general said the Press also has an important role to play in generating greater public awareness of important issues and helping to ensure that the country moves on the right political course.

Maintaining that the Press is as important as other major institutions in the country, he said the Press could help the country's political development by exposing the conduct of corrupt politicians and other negative aspects of politics.

"In exposing any corruption, you (newspapers) will have to go all the way. If you do it only for a couple days and stop, then people may suspect that you have received white envelopes (bribery)," he quipped.

He complained about attempts to separate the military from the whole Thai population, saying:

"These days many soldiers wonder why the military was singled out by ordinary Thais despite sharing views with them."

Gen Suchinda said he was the only member of the family who entered military service. He said he became a soldier by accident.

He said the Armed Forces which commands about 500,000 regular troops and several million reserves comprises a large portion of Thailand's population.

With their meagre salaries privates are the most underprivileged, earning only 36 baht a day while the minimum wage for a labourer is 100 baht.

A career as a soldier is different from normal life because they have to make resolutions every day in their love and loyalty to the nation, religion, and the King.

But on the whole they have no different views from non-soldiers.

Gen Suchinda said what has been overlooked is the third ingredient, the goal of democracy—that politicians must act in the interests of the public and make sacrifices for the common good.

The question should be how political parties should contribute to the country and not their own good, he said, adding that politicians should not resort to any means to get ministerial posts.

Election Might Be Postponed

BK0109015691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Sep 91 p A1

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong last night warned that the election could be postponed from late March if unrest was instigated to prevent the smooth promulgation of the new constitution.

Sunthon, who is also chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), said that the election date had originally been scheduled for Feb 23, next year, but was later postponed to late March. He did not explain the reason for the postponement.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said on Friday night that the election could be held in late March.

Sunthon described the late-March date as a pledge by the NPKC to all parties concerned.

The NPKC would try to fulfil it but it cannot be held responsibile if anything untowards happened and caused a delay in holding the election.

"If the opposite side created trouble, leading to unrest outside the National Assembly, then the election might be postponed," he said. He did not identify who the opposite side was. But he made the remarks following a published interview quoting a leading New Aspiration Party member Wira Musikaphong as saying that the party, which is led by former military leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, might call a rally of its members if the draft constitution sailed through the assembly through the second reading without positive amendments.

He said if the National Assembly failed to agree on the draft constitution in its second and third readings, then the NPKC would have to act.

The NPKC let the charter drafting committee formulate the new constitution without any "blueprint," he said.

Sunthon said that politicians can hold rallies to comment on the draft constitution provided that they do not instigate unrest.

The supreme commander, who is due to retire at the end of October, said he would quit the chairmanship of the NPKC next year if His Majesty the King issued a decree to the effect or if and when the new government has been formed.

He said he had avoided making public statements lately because he had been busy with overseas missions.

Committee May Reject Constitution

BK0209015291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A1

[Text] The chief adviser to the National Peacekeeping Council indicated yesterday that the controversial Constitution Committee proposed under the draft constitution would be rejected by the panel scrutinizing the proposed charter.

Bunchana Atthakon, chairman of the NPKC's advisory committee, said there had been growing opposition to the proposed powers of the Constitution Committee.

Under the constitution draft, which passed its first reading unopposed in the interim National Assembly last week, the Constitution Committee is authorized to investigate and recommend punitive action against MPs accused of cheating in elections. The draft also empowers the nine-member panel to nominate members of the Senate.

Critics have said the Constitution Committee would serve as a "medium" for the NPKC, allowing the military council to remain politically powerful after the next general election.

Although the NPKC will be constitutionally required to disband after the next pool, the critics fear it could fill the Constitution Committee with pro-military figures before its dissolution.

The clause on the Constitution Committee was vehemently defended by Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, who chaired the ad hoc committee that drew up the charter draft.

Michai said the Constitution Committee was intended to eliminate the chronic problem of vote buying and that rejecting it meant the rejection of the entire draft.

The committee was an "essential" element of the draft and other clauses were written in relevance to it, Michai said.

Some members of the interim National Assembly voiced objection to the proposed Constitution Committee, but they were outnumbered by its proponents and in the end had to vote for the draft in the first reading.

The committee scrutinizing the charter draft, set up after the first reading, was filled with pro-military figures.

But it was reported yesterday that one of those who wanted to terminate the clause on the Constitution Committee was Osot Kosin, who was expected to lead the scrutinizing panel.

Asked if the clause would be rejected by the scrutinizing panel, Bunchana said: "I have heard so."

Bunchana earlier said the Constitution Committee was part of a new mechanism aimed at wiping out unscrupulous politicians. But he admitted that it was "a new idea which the public may find unacceptable."

Bunchana said yesterday whether the Constitution Committee should exist "is not a case for me".

Coup Reportedly Not Linked to Investment Decline

BK0209025691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 17

[Text] National Peace-Keeping Council (NPKC) deputy leader Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said the future of Thailand's economy depended on the wellbeing of the Asia/Pacific region, which in the future would greatly influence the world economy.

Gen Suchinda, who also is Royal Thai Army Commander-in-Chief, said the February coup was not the reason for the decline in foreign investment here.

He said that during a recent visit to Japan he had talked to Japanese businessmen and been told investors faced a number of obstacles to investment in Thailand, including rising labour costs, high land costs, shortage of infrastructure for water and electricity supplies and chronic traffic problems.

Adding to this, he said, was the Government's policy to slow the growth of the country's economy after years of rapid growth which had resulted in economic overheating.

"We do not have any problem in the manufacturing sector. What we should concentrate on now is only how to export as much as possible," he said.

Gen Suchinda said the world economy was changing rapidly and that Thailand must be able to adjust well to the situation.

He said disputes among the administrators of the previous government had not allowed the country to do well, which had forced him to lead the coup.

"The political conflict in the Soviet Union will only support the U.S. to be more powerful in the world. Amid the problem of exports of the country, Thailand should join the move to group countries in the Asia/Pacific region, whcih is believed to be the world's largest and most important market place," he said.

Gen Suchinda said the world's future economic growth would depend greatly on the performance of countries in the Asia/Pacific area, and that Thailand should be able to benefit from this very big market in countries like China and India.

Meanwhile, the country had progressed in developing relations with Indochinese countries, including Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, which would help strengthen the position of Thailand in the region.

The recent conclusion of a discussion between Thailand and Laos resulted in a number of agreements on business cooperation, particularly in the tourism and aviation industries. Thailand would help upgrade the airport in Luang Phrabang to develop Laos' aviation industry.

Gen Suchinda said Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on had done his best to solve the problem of rising consumer-good prices, and that more measures would be launched.

He said Thailand was a free-trade country so an effective solution should be the promotion of competition in the business to bring down prices, while maintaining product availability in the market.

"First we should fight back by not buying those expensive things. I remember while staying in the U.S. when American citizens boycotted the purchase of meat which was very expensive, and they won," he said.

After the coup, he said the NPKC and the Government had done many things as planned to solve the country's business problems, such as dealing with labour problems in state enterprises.

The other things which needed attention were problems in the sugar industry which had affected Thailand's exports of sugar-based products. Sugar prices in Thailand were very high despite the country's image as a major sugar producer.

Paper Says Suchinda's Career Reason for Coup

BK0209060691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A10

[Editorial: "Who will thwart the next coup in Thailand?"]

[Text] Of all the five "reasons" for staging the Feb 23 coup, perhaps the one about the Chatchai administration allegedly trying to create rifts inside the military institution was the overriding factor.

Gen Chatchai Chunhawan wanted to fire Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong for alleged insubordination; he offered the supreme commander post to Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun, but Gen Suchinda declined the offer. Then Chatchai and his men came up with another idea: fire Gen Sunthon, transfer Gen Suchinda to the supreme commander post and promote Deputy Army Commander Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to the top army post. But Gen Itsaraphong, who is Gen Suchinda's brother-in-law and classmate at Chunlachomklao Royal Military Academy's Class Five, also turned down the offer.

Chatchai and his men—mistaken that they had the political edge and that a coup against them was "unthinkable"—pushed on with the appointment of Deputy Prime Minsiter Gen Athit Kamlang-ek to the post of deputy defence minister. Chatchai's stated reason for this controversial appointment was that he did not have time to look after military affairs in his concurrent capacity as defence minsiter. But Athit was obviously a poor choice because he was extremely unpopular with Class Five.

The coup took place just when Chatchai was about to bring Athit to board a flight for an royal audience in Chiang Mai in which Athit would have been sworn in as the deputy defence minister. Gen Suchinda revealed on Friday night, in a dinner speech to the Reporters Association of Thailand, that he took only "two hours" to decide on staging the coup that Feb 23 morning. He and his cohorts from Class Five were apparently afraid that Chatchai would seek a royal order to sack Gen Sunthon and, more importantly, transfer him to the ceremonial post of the supreme commander and appoint some general who was on friendly terms with Chatchai to be the new army chief.

But in retrospect, it is clear that the Feb 23 coup was staged more for the military career of Gen Suchinda and his cohorts than any other reason. To claim now that it was done in response to public outcries against the Chatchai administration—as Gen Suchinda claimed in his Friday speech—is a misrepresentation of the facts, to say the least.

If memory serves us right, there was no significant group calling for the overthrow of the Chatchai administration in spite of the alleged major corruption in high places and irregularities in the appointments to senior bureaucratic posts. We did remember hearing many calls for Chatchai to dissolve the House and call a general election when his coalition was breaking apart. This newspaper consistently took this position because giving the voters a chance to decide would be the least objectionable way to pass judgement on the politicians in the administration.

Chatchai chose to formally step down in order to reorganize his coalition. In the end it did not work out; this weakened him politically. His entangling conflict with the military leaders eventually led to his sudden downfall.

When air force commandos detained Chatchai and his entourage at Don Muang airport, the military leaders had a chance to force Chatchai to step down and call a general election. But either such a demand was not made or Chatchai refused it, and the military leaders proceeded to announce the takeover a few hours after seizing Chatchai and his men at gunpoint.

Looking into the future, is there any assurance that there will not be more coups? Responding to a similar question on Friday night, Gen Suchinda said there could be no assurance as long as the military remained the only effective counter-balance to the politicians in power. He added that the people had to get organized and pay more attention to national politics so that they could collectively become a powerful voice that the politicians must reckon with.

Citing the strong opposition of the Russians to the coup attempt by the Soviet hardliners as an example, Gen Suchinda said that no coup attempts in Thailand would ever succeed again if Thai people became as politically active as those Russians. He even ventured to suggest that the mass media, the Thai press in particular, could play a major role in raising the political awareness of Thai people.

Gen Suchinda seems to have learned the right lesson from the Soviet coup attempt, especially in the part about how the Russians thwarted the coup. But how can we account for the high level of political awareness among the Russians since most of the mass media in the Soviet Union before and until the coup were mostly owned and/or controlled by the Communist Party? There was "something" in the Russians' minds that is still missing in the Thais'.

But what is it? Could it be the fear that any true political upheaval will directly affect their life and livelihood?

Solidarity Leader Views Suchinda Possibilities

BK0209032291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] The political situation may be engineered to provide Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun with an excuse for taking over as the next prime minister since the NPKC vice chairman has said that whether or not he will accept the post depended on the situation in the future, Solidarity party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian said yesterday.

At a dinner organised by the Reporters Association of Thailand last Friday, Gen Suchinda, who has always maintained that he has no political ambition, would not categorically delcine to accept the post of premier saying that this depended on the situation in the future.

Mr Bunchu said that because of this statement some "situation" in the future may be created to enable Gen Suchinda to accept the premiership.

"It's good that he said so. Now we know Gen Suchinda has changed his mind and would accept to the post of premier. If he didn't say so we would still be left in the dark," Bunchu said.

Asked how he viewed the National Peacekeeping Council, Mr Bunchu said the reasons that the junta cited to justify the coup d'etat were mere excuses because the country now is not any less corrupt and dubious practices are still as prevalent as ever.

There are also indications that the junta wants to extend its power beyond the general election so that its members could get in place to administer the country in the future, Mr Bunchu said.

Asked what he thought of NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong's warning that if there was unrest elections would be delayed, the Solidarity leader said this would be something that cannot be prevented if the people cannot accept what they perceive as wrong.

"If things go too much against their heart then they may come out and agitate. It has happened many times before. This is why they have to consider the constitution very carefully," Bunchu said.

He said that the appointment of Khamnans and village headmen, instead of directly electing them as in the past, is also meeting strong opposition in the provinces and the authorities should reconsider the matter.

"Follow the movement of the people closely. Former MPs [members of parliament] have briefed them about the charter and they are more aware of the consequences.

People may come out and demonstrate if the constitution is not democratic enough. I hope the scrutiny committee would listen to the voice of the people," he said.

The points that should be changed is the provision requiring two-thirds majority in both Houses to amend the constitution, the selection of senators, and the increased power of the Senate. The Upper House should only perform the duty of scrutinising legislative drafts, Bunchu said.

He added that even though many sides would be involved in appointing members of the all powerful Constitution Committee people loyal to the NPKC would dominate the body since they are now in both the NLA and the government.

Mr Bunchu said that he disagreed with setting up an ombudsman because there already exists the Budget Bureau and the Counter Corruption Commission to do the job. Instead the latter two bodies should be strengthened to perform their duties more effectively and be transferred to the legislative branch to fully control and check the work of the government.

Social Action Party Urges Changes to Draft

BK0309030591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] The Social Action Party yesterday presented a seven-point letter to Parliament calling for democratic changes to the draft Constitution.

The letter will be passed to the special committee scrutinising the draft Charter.

SAP secretary-general Prayut Siriphanit, spokesman Thana Metarikanon and former MPs for Maha Sarakham Amphon Chancharoen and Prawat Thongsombun handed the letter to Parliament's Deputy Secretary-General, Phinit Arayasiri.

The seven points state that:

—Chapter six, providing for the Constitution Committee, should be scrapped with all other relevant articles since they would be the means to extend the power of the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC];

—The number of senators at 270 is too high and should be only one-third the number of Members of Parliament—120 senators in all;

—A Constitutional Tribunal ruling to oust an MP or senator should not require three-quarters' support but should be a unanimous decision as in the previous charter;

—Constituencies should not be enlarged to between four and seven MPs since an MP will not be able to visit all of his constituents and poor candidates will be disadvantaged in fighting a province-wide campaign which would entail more expenses;

—The Senate should not have the power to open a general debate against the government as it is not elected by the public;

—Cabinet ministers should be allowed to perform their duties in the Senate or the House of Representatives if they are senators or MPs; and

—A two-thirds' vote of both Houses is too high a requirement for amending the Constitution since this is 420 votes while the Lower House has only 360 members. The requirement should be cut to only half of both Houses as under the last charter.

Mr Prayut said his party will coordinate efforts with other political parties and interest groups to have these seven points introduced in the new Constitution. However, the party is prepared to fight the elections no matter what type of electoral system is employed.

The NPKC should listen to the rising opposition to the draft, he said.

"The powerful must always have their ears to the ground or else one day they may be in trouble," he said.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself the "Thai People's Group," led by Sophon Supan, a lecturer at the Don Muang Technical College, and Phanuk Thanyarot, a construction unionist, issued an open letter to all political party leaders to unite to fight against what they said were dictatorial forces enforcing the new Constitution.

The pair called on the New Aspiration, Democrat, SAP, Phalang Tham, Solidarity and Prachakon Thai parties yesterday. They handed out T-shirts with a picture of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the inscription "Aren't we ashamed?"

Sophon said that despite the Soviet Union not yet being fully democratic, the Soviet people led by the courageous Yeltsin stood up against tanks and guns to protect democracy. Thai political leaders should do the same against dictatorship in Thailand.

The Charter now under scrutiny in the National Legislative Assembly has been drafted in the minds of dictators and will be imposed on the Thai people, he said, adding all parties should fight this so the country has a real democratic Constitution.

Draft Charter Screening May Take Six Months

BK0309023791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] The special committee screening the draft charter could take between three and six months to complete its work, committee chairman Osot Kosin announced yesterday.

Mr Osot, speaking after being elected chairman of the 25-member panel, said the committee could take up three to six months to study the draft, but it would try to accelerate the process and complete its work by November before returning the draft to the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] for the second and third readings.

He said he did not know if it would take his committee six months to complete the study, but this timeframe had been given by a former MP and he was merely repeating him.

The committee held its first meeting at Parliament House yesterday afternoon.

Also appointed to head the committee were Sansoen Kraitchitti as first vice chairman, Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon as second vice chairman, Komen Phattharaphirom as secretary, Phaithun Changrian, Suwan Chansom and Pol Lt-Gen Wirot Pao-in as assistant secretaries, and Wira Pitarachat as spokesman.

Mr Osot said the committee would meet twice a week—on Monday at 2:00 p.m. and Friday at 3:00 p.m. The duration of the meetings was left open and they could extend into the night. The next meeting was set for this coming Friday.

He said the committee members were responsible to the NLA and none had any power over the others. All decisions will be made as a committee and votes will be called if there is any disagreement. The chairman will only cast a vote if there is a deadlock.

The committee will screen all 244 articles of the charter individually and any which cannot be gotten through quickly will be held over for subsequent consideration after all the easier articles have been clarified.

Having completed its assessment, the committee will return to the difficult articles and any reservations made by NLA members not seated on the committee.

"From my experience, things will proceed quicker this way," he said.

Mr Osot asked reporters to try to understand the panel and give its members moral support rather than attack it before it has begun a proper study of the draft.

"Don't attack us so violently. You are already saying that we have a 'blueprint' for the draft or that some 'spirit' has taken control of our minds and bodies," said Mr Osot.

He said, when asked about criticisms that most of the committee members were tied to or were close to the NPKC (National Peace-keeping Council), that he did not know what "NPKC" was an abbreviation of.

When told, he said they did not know him because he was an old man.

Mr Osot said the committee had agreed that its spokesman, Wira Pitarachat, would make all public statements in the future and he would not hold a press conference after every meeting.

Mr Wira said he would only make statements to the Press when there was "something substantial" to say.

He insisted that this did not demean the strong interest in the constitution. It simply reflected the view that there would be little of interest to tell the public after every meeting.

Both men refused to discuss certain controversial articles, saying this would have to wait until they came up for scrutiny by the committee.

Papers Comment on Draft

BK3108130391

[Editorial Report] The 31 August issues of the Thai papers BAN MUANG, THAI RAT, NAEO NA, and SIAM RAT carry editorials on the scrutiny of the draft constitution which passed in the first reading of the National Legislative Assembly on 28 August.

The 350-word SIAM RAT editorial, on page 3, titled: "Unwise To Ignore," says: "Although the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] has already accepted the draft constitution in principle, there have been disagreements with the draft in many circles. The common disagreement with the draft appears to center on its several undemocratic clauses. Due to the people's present heightened political awareness, a failure to address these clauses could lead to divisiveness and a disturbance of peace similar to what occurred on 14 October 1973." After the editorial notes that Thailand witnessed several constitutions being tossed out by successful coups, it concludes: "To avoid the use of force to toss out or change a constitution, the constitution should be written in such a way that allows its flaws to be amended. In the current draft constitution, the entire House of Representatives cannot even initiate a constitutional amendment. We feel that this type of restriction not only shows that the constitution drafters refuse to recognize the importance of the people's representatives in the way they are recognized in democratic countries elsewhere, but encourages the use of force to bring about constitutional change. Although it is not easy to stage a coup, it is not impossible when people feel helpless and can no longer bear the deprivation of their political freedom and decide to take matters into their own hands as was the case on 14 October 1973. This is a matter that should not be ignored."

The 600-word BAN MUANG editorial, on page 5, titled: "The Constitution Committee Issue," reads: "The first reading of the draft constitution generates only one criticism—the establishment of the constitution committee. Critics fear that the committee will become a body that exercises excessive power over members of parliament and controls their behavior right from the election day. The people who are unhappy with the power and duties of the constitution committee are aspiring MPs because they do not want a body that monitors their behavior and actions. They have the illusion that their election gives them unchallenged privileges and authority." The editorial concludes: "The majority of the people support the creation of a central body to monitor the behavior and actions of politicians to ensure that they perform their entrusted duties. Good, ethical politicians should have nothing to worry about in the constitution committee."

The 600-word NAEO NA editorial, on page 4, titled: "Do Not Let the Label Stick," says although there are allegations that the 25-strong committee for scrutinizing the draft constitution was chosen by the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], many people feel that the committee members have enough pride and independence to exercise their own good judgment. The editorial continues: "The committee will reveal its true colors as to whether or not it is the NPKC's puppet by its decision on the electoral system. The draft constitution calls for an individual candidacy-multiple constituency system, but certain NPKC leaders have been heard to favor the party slate-combined constituency electoral system. The other constitution clauses that draw considerable criticism are the constitution committee; the parliament inspector whose authority is above that of the MPs and senators; senatorial selection, appointment, and power; and the difficulty with amending the constitution. These are the issues that will reveal whether the constitution scrutiny committee is in fact the NPKC's puppet." Concluding, the editorial adds: "We sincerely believe that not every committee member will permit himself to be labeled as an NPKC stooge."

The 350-word, page 3 THAI RAT editorial, titled: "Better To Act," says: "Although the appointment of the 25-strong constitution scrutiny committee by the National Legislative Assembly may arouse the feeling that since the committee was hand-picked by the NPKC only minor changes can be expected in the draft constitution, people who feel that changes are necessary should not lose heart. They must act immediately. Fifteen days does not allow much time for the scrutiny process. People seeking changes in the draft constitution should immediately submit their ideas in writing elucidating their points regarding contentious clauses or articles. Without such action there is no hope that a fully democratic constitution will materialize." The THAI RAT editorial concludes: "The election date, targeted for February or March, should not become a reason to rush through the constitution. We should be able to accept the postponement of the election by one month in order to have a democratic constitution to guide the country."

Commentary Compares Thai, Soviet Coups

BK3108020391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Aug 91 p A10

[Commentary by Ch. Thitinan Phongsuthirak, affiliated with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.]

[Text] Despite obvious differences, the recent cataclysmic coup in the Soviet Union bears remarkable similarities to the February 23 coup in Thailand. A comparison of the two unconstitutional seizures of power will yield lessons that both the people and the junta rulers in Thailand could heed for future changes of government.

Notwithstanding the glaring difference in diametrical outcome, both coups were executed by traditional authorities of power. In the Soviet Union, such an authority was manifested in the vast military-industrial-complex, comprising three towering entities: the Communist Party, the Red Army and the secret police apparatus, known as the KGB. Not surprisingly, the Party, the Army and the KGB cooperated to oust Gorbachev just prior to the penning of the Union Treaty agreement that would erode the trio's grip on the country by transferring substantial power to the constituent republics.

As a communist party cadre who rose through party ranks, Gorbachev tried to revitalize his country's economy through internal reforms. He was willing to make the necessary changes in decentralization to secure a more productive and satisfied population, provided that the Soviet Union stay on the socialist course and that a socialist union is maintained, even if the republics become "sovereign states".

The Soviet coup makers disagreed with Gorbachev, fearing that, with increased autonomy, the ethnically diverse republics will inevitably break away. Thus on a national level, the Soviet junta wanted to maintain the Bolshevik communist rule that Lenin achieved in 1917; on a personal level, they wanted to perpetuate their own influence and perks.

In Thailand, there is no national level. The situation is much simpler because fewer principles are involved. The Thai military has long enjoyed the limelight as the national protector against external threats and the guarantor of internal order. When its traditional role and power were thought to be undermined by the Chatchai government last February, the Thai military leaders typically called out the tanks. They succeeded largely because there was no viable opposition, no institution able and willing to resist the generals. The civilian politicians either raced out of the country or became dormant. And the Thai people, who were utterly fed up with the corruption that were prevalent in the Chatchai administration, not only stood idly by during the coup hours, but actually gave it a warm reception.

To be sure, the Soviet coup faced a host of obstacles in and out of its control from the very beginning. Unlike the Thai military's unity revolving around Class Five officers, the Soviet coupmaking circle was not as cohesive. The coup's high command did not sufficiently ascertain the loyalty of their division commanders, most of whom ultimately sided with the people. The Soviet coup makers also underestimated the enraged response of the Soviet public, who had irreversibly tasted the freedoms that accompanied six years of glasnost and perestroyka. Moreover, the public opposition was directed by a charismatic leader, Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin, who immediately took centre stage in rallying the crowds against the coup.

The Soviet coup ploters might have had a chance had they shot first and spoken later, albeit many more lives would have been lost. The relatively bloodless nature of the two putsches is a similarity that should be cherished. In addition, the Soviet junta's failure to control all communication channels from the outset in order to limit international opposition and to suppress domestic coordination also doomed its effort. This enabled the American president to chat freely with Yeltsin on the phone, almost getting through to Gorbachev. Similarly, the Soviet people communicated among themselves to set up a nationwide strike, and took other simultaneous actions. It is fortunate that the Soviet junta did not emulate their Thai counterpart in taking control of all major communication facilities during coup-making.

Clearly, the Soviet Union will never be the same. The Baltics will be allowed independence. More than half a century of communist central planning has made Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia looked at neighbouring Finland's higher standards of living with envy. Beside the Baltics, several other republics are clamouring for independence as well.

Yeltsin, who has emerged from the botched coup more powerful than ever, is known to want a horizontal union between Russia and the other republics. Since Gorbachev was rescued by Yeltsin and is now overshadowed by his saviour, he will have to ponder letting a handful of republics leave the Soviet orbit. While his options are reduced, the Soviet President made a step in the right direction by admitting to be partly responsible for the attempted coup.

Again the picture is much simpler when a coup takes place in Thailand. Thai leaders do not make such admission of responsibility. A military dictator could be exiled and later returned to throw merry birthday bashes that attract throngs of people. Due to its relative homogeneity, Thailand is not threatened by any national disintegration. But despite these differences, some Thais who took part in the October 14 uprising in 1973 to overthrow the Thanom military dictatorship may feel nostalgic during the ongoing Soviet upheaval.

In a similar magnitude but under different circumstances, what transpired in Thailand in October 1973 is occurring in the Soviet Union today. The Soviets should be aware that the exciting times to come could eventually trigger a reaction from the right, as happened in Thailand on October 6, 1976. However, the Soviets seem to have a viable system and capable leadership to replace the old order. Thailand did not.

After its cathartic coup in October 1973, Thai politics flirted wildly with democratic practices. But in all of the elections and campaigns during the subsequent three years, no person nor institution was established to lead Thailand out of military rule. Consequently, the military came back with revenge in October 1976, and stayed around in varying degrees until Chatchai's Cabinet was formed in August 1988. At present, there is still no entity powerful enough to challenge the military. Because of the lack of continuity, the Thai political party system has been weakened time and again, as each coup hinders parliamentary development.

What Thailand needs is a Boris Yeltsin. But to match Yeltsin's character, charisma and the change he symbolizes, the Thai people would at least need someone with Bangkok Governor Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang's integrity and Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawet's oratory skills.

Even with such an imposing figure who could help lead Thai politics to a democratic outcome, Thailand would still need an established institution to carry out the democratic process.

That institution is the parliamentary system, which must not be disrupted continually and must have a constitution that is oriented toward the public, not military, interest.

In the Soviet Union, it is the dawn of an exciting new era. Let us hope Thailand is passing through the twilight of the junta years.

Chat Thai Meets Village, Tambon Leaders

BK0209033491 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A2

[Text] In what seen as one of its first moves to prepare for the next general election, the Chat Thai Party on Saturday held meetings of village and tambon leaders in Nakhon Ratchasima, the party's most important stronghold.

Officials of Chat Thai, which has been deeply shaken by the Feb 23 coup, said the party was trying to win support from village headmen and khamnan (tambon leaders) by showing its sympathy with their opposition to the Interior Ministry's plan to end direct local elections.

The plan, favoured by Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, would replace direct elections of the grassroots administrators with a complicated system under which villagers would nominate five people to replace a village headman. A provincial committee headed by the governor of the province would later make a final decision.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said local Chat Thai members in the northeastern province quietly held separate meetings for headmen and khamnan at two hotels in the provincial town, so as to avoid publicity.

It was the first time that Chat Thai was seen to be preparing for the general election since the Feb 23 coup that saw the overthrow of then party leader and prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan. The coup also lead to the formation of the military-appointed Assets Examination Committee, which has found grounds to charge seven Chat Thai executives, including Chatchai, to be "unusually wealthy".

The plan to amend the Local Administrative Act to end direct elections of the local administrators has met with strong opposition from members of the national Khamnan and Village Headmen Association.

The cabinet is expected to consider the ministry's proposed plan in its weekly meeting tomorrow.

The association was reportedly contemplating some measures to fight the proposed amendment, including mass resignation of headmen and khamnan, but the tide has turned somewhat in recent weeks and the association president has asked members to adopt a "wait-and-see" policy.

Some politicians have said they suspected that the military wanted to use the new system to purge the political bases of some parties, including Chat Thai. They note that the system would give unprecedented power to pick local administrators to provincial governors, and thus to the interior minister, who appoints the governors.

Village headmen and khamnan in the past have been a crucial part of political campaigns for seats in the House of Representatives, acting as canvassers for party candidates.

Nakhon Ratchasima is the province with the second-largest constituency, with 15 MPs. In the last election, six of the candidates fielded by Chat Thai, including former prime minister Chatchai and his nephew Kon Thappharangsi, got elected to the House.

The Chat Thai local officials said no concrete measures against the planned amendment were reached during the meetings.

The party members also criticized the military-dominated committee set up to scrutinize the constitution draft in its second reading. The 25-member committee has been accused of being a front for the military to help it retain the unpopular version of the draft.

Monk Criticizes Coup, Interior Minister

BK0209054891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A4

[Text] A well-known Buddhist monk indirectly criticized the Feb 23 coup yesterday, saying military coup d'etats were a thing for under-developed countries.

Phra Thepwisuthimethi, abbot of Chonprathan Rangsarit Temple in Nonthaburi province, cited the abortive coup in the Soviet Union two weeks ago as an example, saying it had failed because of resistance by "civilized" people.

"It's not like Thailand, where coups are always successful," said the monk, who often comments on social issues. "Coups are only successful in underdeveloped countries. Does Thailand want to be among those countries?"

Although denounced by academics, politicians and student activists, the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) has often claimed that its seizure of power was supported by the public. The NPKC even said the Soviet coup failed because it lacked support from the Soviet people.

The monk, whose comments are often quoted by politicians, was speaking to members of the Solidarity Party after presiding over a religious ceremony to bless the party's new logo at its headquarters on Ratchadaphisek road.

The monk also criticized Interior Minister Gen Itsaratphong Nunphakdi's initiative to launch a democratic awareness campaign among the country's villagers.

The monk said the campaign would not work because people could not be made to respect democracy in a short period of time. Itsaraphong, secretary general of the NPKC, has often boasted that his political-education programme has been successful.

Phra Thepwisuthimethi said the best way to teach villagers about democracy was to let monks do the work because it was the monks' duty to preach to the people.

The monk said it was a pity that monks could not teach laymen about democracy because the laws required monks to stay away from politics.

The monk said the country's problems might stem from "irresponsibility" on the part of the country's leaders.

The monk cited national leaders' alleged indifference after being implicated in sex scandals as an example of their "lack of responsibility."

Asa To Raise Fishing Problem During Visit

BK3108080291 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin pledged to raise fishing problems for discussion when he visits Vietnam in the middle of September. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said representatives of the Fishery Association of Thailand led by Mr. Charoen Chantha-itsara called on the foreign minister on Wednesday, seeking his help on the pending issue involving Thai fishing trawlers and imprisoned crew in Vietnam. Minister Asa confirmed that he would raise the issue in his discussions with the Vietnamese leaders.

He was of the view that efforts should be made to convince the Vietnamese that fishing operations were mutually beneficial. Although Thailand is in a good position to transfer fishing technology to Vietnam, [words indistinct] should be made to the Vietnamese side to facilitate the operation. According to the Fishery Association of Thailand, about 500 Thai fishing crew are presently jailed in Vietnam for violating that country's territorial waters.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working on the framework of cooperation between Thailand and Vietnam. During the foreign minister's visit in September, an agreement will be signed on the establishment of a Thai-Vietnamese joint commission. A draft agreement on investment protection will be made ready and be signed shortly with the consent of both sides. Minister Asa hoped to reach an agreement with Vietnam on fishing cooperation during this visit. Negotiations to release Thai fishing crew in prisons in Vietnam are expected.

Official Views Allegations on Burmese Students

BK0109145391 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Statement to reporters by General Narudon Detpradiyut, acting director of the Supreme Command Information Office; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The situation along the border with Burma is normal and free of problems because the two countries have fixed their common border and signed an agreement on it.

The problem we have concerns an allegation by Amnesty International to the effect that Thailand carried out forced repatriation, beating, and detention of Burmese students. I wish to inform you that Thailand has strictly followed the steps of the agreement made with the students. The students knew that they could stay in Thailand on the condition that they refrain from political activities, making demands of their rights, or creating disturbances. Once they violated this agreement it is necessary for the Thai police to make arrests. After the arrest, the students are handed over to the Immigration Department for legal action on charges of illegal entry. The court imposes a fine. If the students cannot pay the fine they are imprisoned in accordance with established procedures. After serving the imprisonment term, they are then held at the Police Private School awaiting transfer to the detention center in Pak Tho District which is currently under construction.

That is the process dealing with Burmese students who violated the agreement made with the Thai Government. Those students who do not cause any trouble have been able to stay unaffected. The controls are ordinary matter, even Thai people who cause trouble have to be sent to court.

Ministry To Present Burmese Holy Titles

BK3108014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Aug 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Interior Ministry has agreed to present Burma's highest religious title to His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch and nine other Thai monks on behalf of Rangoon, Interior Minister Itsaraphong Nunphakdi confirmed yesterday.

The minister is scheduled to be have an audience with the Supreme Patriarch on September 6 to present the Burmese religious honour, highly-informed ministry sources said.

The titles were presented to Gen Itsaraphong by visiting Burmese Interior Minister Phone Myint on Thursday.

Gen Itsaraphong said he agreed to accept the honour to be passed on to the Supreme Patriarch because of the good relations between Thailand and Burma.

Because of the proximity with Burma, Gen Itsaraphong said that the border problems with Burma and their repercussions could be prevented if relations with Burma remained good.

The Interior Ministry's decision to help pass on the Burmese honour to the Supreme Patriarch is based on the recommendation of the Foreign and Education ministries, Gen Itsarapong said.

The Government, the sources said, sees the need for the honour to be accepted in case diplomatic relations with Burma are jeopardised.

However, because of the sensitivity of the issue, the Government does not want the titles to be presented directly to the Supreme Patriarch and the Thai monks.

Since the titles were brought by the Burmese minister, it is appropriate they are presented through his Thai counterpart and handed over to the recipients later, the sources said.

The Burmese minister was originally scheduled to present the titles to the Supreme Patriarch and the other monks at Wat Bowon Niwet on Thursday.

However, the ceremony was postponed to 3 p.m. yesterday and then scrapped because of opposition by Burmese dissidents and local critics.

The Burmese minister and his delegation yesterday paid a courtesy call on the Supreme Patriarch at Wat Bowon Niwet but no reporters and photographers were allowed to be present during the meeting.

Thai Foreign and Education ministry officials tried to play down the controversy by saying that as a Buddhist monk the Supreme Patriarch could not turn down whatever was offered to him.

—Gen Itsaraphong has meanwhile approved an Interior Ministry proposal to seek 20 million baht to renovate a Border Patrol Police camp in Ratchaburi to house and feed Burmese students who entered the country illegally.

The ministry plans to spend three million baht to renovate the camp and use the rest to buy food and other relief aid for the students who will be sheltered at the camp when renovations are completed, the sources said.

There are an estimated 1,500 Burmese students in Bangkok.

12 Billion Baht Sought for Missile Package

BK0309011591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Sep 91 pp A1,2

[Text] The Supreme Command has proposed a major defence spending package involving at least Bt53.06 billion, including a huge Bt24.54 billion for a Crotale NG short-range air defence system from France-based Thomson-CSF. The package requires a budgetary commitment from fiscal 1991 to fiscal 2000.

Initial approval for a special budget for the weapons systems and aircraft was obtained during the Chatchai administration. After administration was ousted in the coup earlier this year, the procurement programme remained unchanged.

In the proposal, the Supreme Command wants to buy, under a special procurement method, 20 sets of the Crotale NG surface-to-air missle systems, 12 of which will be used by the army, and four each by the navy and air force.

When the plan to buy the system was proposed to the Defence Council on January 24 this year, at that time headed by Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, who was prime minister and defence minister, it called for a spending commitment of Bt12.25 billion for 20 units during fiscal 1991 to 1997.

Under the original plan, Bt3.06 billion would be sought additionally during fiscal 1991, and Bt9.18 billion would be committed during fiscal 1992 to 1997.

However, Gen Chatchai instructed the Supreme Command to work out a new payment schedule for the Crotale NG system complete with equipment and logistics system, by extending the final payment until 2000, with a grace period covering 1991 and 1992.

The Defence Ministry, after reviewing the programme, informed the secretary general of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun in early May this year that it needed a larger budget for the system—Bt24.54 billion for the same 20 Crotale NG sets—doubling the original amount. It simply said that it would be necessary for the armed forces to acquire a sophisticated air-defence system. It did not explain why there was the urgency to spend heavily on defence equipment after the post-Cold War era.

The Defence Ministry request means that by extending the payment terms by only two years, the Supreme Command is asking for a 100-per-cent increase in the budget for the system, though the number of air-defence missile units would remain the same. Neither the Supreme Command nor the Defence Ministry has explained why the number of Crotale NG units would not rise in proportion to the huge budget increase.

The doubling of the budget has surprised Government House officials who thought that with that much additional budget, there should be a substantial increase in the number of units provided. The system will be equipped with VT-1 surface-to-air missiles from the U.S.-based LTV Group.

The Defence Ministry said the increased budget should be given as a special case, in addition to the annual budgetary appropriations. The Crotale NG system is being obtained under what the Supreme Command calls a special procurement method, instead of the bidding method where the military would pick the best from among several systems.

The special procurement method used in this case was defended by the ministry on grounds that the seller of the system, Thomson-CSF, does not have a representative in Thailand. The procurement was handled by a committee led by Vice Admiral Pravit Palasi with six other members. The committee has not sought proposals from any other suppliers.

The committee was assigned to conduct direct negotiations with Thomson-CSF of France.

The Supreme Command does not have its own forces. In this case, it serves as the procurement office for the three branches of the armed forces. It was not immediatly known whether the PM's secretary general has sought Cabinet approval for the huge spending.

In the original proposal for the Bt53.06 billion budget, the Supreme Command listed other defence procurement spending programmes:—Bt 12.25 billion for the 20 sets of Crotale NG, before the amount was doubled.—A plan of the army to buy 50 two-engine helicopters for general transport and two medium-sized helicopters, for a total budget of Bt8.43 billion.—A plan for the navy to buy three aircraft, six helicopters, and a weapons system to be installed on two Frigates.

Democrat Party Spotlighted After Leader Cleared

BK0209052691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A1-A2

[Text] The military investigators' decision to clear Democrat Party Secretary-General Maj Gen Sanan Kachonprasat of corruption charges has suddenly thrust the Democrat Party into the political spotlight. And the timing could not be better.

With growing public disillusionment with the military, Thailand's oldest party, with its fine record of struggle against dictatorship, will create inspiration for politicians pushed against the ropes in the aftermath of the Feb 23 coup, observers say.

Now that their secretary-general has been cleared, the Democrats are expected to join the recently-formed New Aspiration Party (NAP) of former military leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and the pro-military Sammakhitham Party as the key players in the next general election.

"The party has been purified, and will be one of the hottest forces in the next election," said a source close to the Democrats.

With NAP's political base yet to be proven and Sammakhitham's lingering image problems, the Democrat Party even seems to be holding the advantage, the analysts say.

The two new parties had stood to be the sole contenders, and well-matched ones at this, in the next poll as the military-initiated corruption probe had crippled or temporarily paralyzed key political parties.

But the Democrat Party has been let loose and its return to the stage occupied by NAP and Sammakhitham will give spectators an impression of two "military parties" on one side and a group with a different ideology on another.

Gen Chawalit is distancing himself from the military, launching almost daily broadsides against his armed forces predecessors who chose to enforce their political will with firepower.

But whether he can completely erase his "general's image" or avoid an anti-military backlash stemming from the constitution- drafting process remains to be seen.

Sammakhitham is even closer to the military institution, which is being caught in a storm of criticism for allegedly trying to influence the constitution-making process.

Democrat leaders obviously have realized their opportunity.

Freed from the shackles of Sanan's investigation, they have resumed their characteristic aggressivenes, starting with attacks on the military junta.

Party leader Chuan Likphai fired the first shot on Saturday, saying the Feb 23 military takeover had sent Thailand's international reputation plunging and subjected local politicians to persecution by armed forces strongmen.

He rapped the Foreign Ministry for claiming that the global community had recognized the National Peacekeeping Council and its power seizure.

"The Foreign Ministry claims that the international community has recognized us, but in fact, China and Burma have been the only two countries to have done so so far," he said in a speech to Bangkok-based Democrat members.

Chuan also disputed claims by Army Commander-in-Chief and Deputy NPKC Chairman Suchinda Khraprayun that the declared objectives of the February coup were being achieved.

The Democrat leader said the NPKC had discriminated against certain politicians in its anti-corruption campaign and the NPKC-installed interim National Assembly had proved to be tractable by the military.

The NPKC's popularity appeared to have dwindled when a pro-military draft constitution sailed unopposed through the National Assembly in its first reading last week. The public frustration over the assembly's poor performance was compounded by the appointment of a military-dominated panel to scrutinize the draft.

Then on Friday, Gen Suchinda, now probably the most powerful figure in the armed forces, refused to say whether he was eyeing the premiership. His future, he said, depended on "circumstances".

Democrat executive Khunying Suphatra Masdit on Saturday questioned Suchinda's leadership qualities.

"To be a good leader one must dare to say what one thinks so that followers will know the directions," Suphatra said, commenting on Suchinda's speech to the Reporters' Association of Thailand.

"It's OK to evade one question out of ten. But he intentionally evaded all of them. It would be even worse if he did so because he has no clear stand on the issues," she said.

Gen Sanan, emerging from a long reclusive period, called on the military to transfer the power of the NPKC-formed assets examination committee to the courts.

He was among three Democrats accused of being corrupt by the military. The investigating panel has dropped graft charges against the other two—northeastern leader Prachuap Chaiyasan and Trairong Suwannakhiri, an outspoken southern political veteran known for his frequent confrontations with the military.

Prachuap recently denied speculation that he was leaving the party. If he keeps his word, the Democrats will be one of the parties most ready for the upcoming poll.

Thirteen politicians, most of them key members of the Chat Thai Party and the Social Action Party, remain under investigation by the assets committee and could be barred from elections for life if the panel decides against them.

"I want justice for the remaining 13," Sanan said.

The Democrat Party, torn by internal conflicts that led to a mass defection a few years ago, was regaining its lost popularity when tanks rolled in to topple the Chatchai government in February.

Shortly before the coup, the Democrats pulled out of the Chatchai administration when it became obvious that a major Cabinet reshuffle would result in ruling parties having an overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives.

On Saturday Chuan played down calls in the press for him to act as Thailand's "Boris Yeltsin".

"It's a reporters' request," he said.

NPKC Urges Government Action on Key Issues

BK0209031291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] The National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] has urged the Government to tackle without delay the worsening traffic conditions in Bangkok, rising prices of essential items and tax on interest in bank saving accounts.

NPKC vice-chairman ACM Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday the three issues and other matters of national interest will be discussed this afternoon at a meeting between members of the NPKC and the Government at the head office of Thai Airways International.

Accompanying Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will be deputy prime ministers Pao Sarasin and Michai Ruchupan and Finance Minister Suthi Singsane.

The NPKC did not set a deadline for the Government to resolve the problems or put pressure on the Government, ACM Kaset said.

Deputy Defence Minister ACM Suthep Theppharak told reporters yesterday the NPKC is ready to help tackle the problems, especially the traffic problem, if requested.

An informed source, however, said the NPKC is not satisfied with the Government's performance in the three areas.

NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong told the Thai News Agency in Singapore last Thursday that the council and the Government still have good relations but there are some elements who try to drive a wedge between them.

Gen Sunthon claimed that despite the "attempt through the mass media to sow the seed of mistrust between the NPKC and the Government," there is no serious conflict between them.

The NPKC and the Government have been working independently and have been in written contact.

"When we have any suggestions we write to the Government. We do not interfere much because we are all mature people," Gen Sunthon said.

Gen Sunthon said an election will be held in March if everything goes as planned.

Gen Sunthon had earlier warned that the election could be delayed beyond the tentative time of late March if unrest is instigated against the controversial draft constitution now at scrutiny stage in the National Legislative Assembly.

Political parties, politicians, academics and the Press have been raising objections to the draft, particularly its provision for an all-powerful Constitution Committee that would be empowered to oversee the elections, investigate MPs and select senators.

They also criticised the increased power of the appointed Senate over the elected House of Representatives and the government.

Gen Sunthon said on Saturday that the election date had been set originally for February 23—exactly a year since his NPKC took power from the Chatchai Chunhawan government.

However, it has already been postponed to late March.

This date is a promise to the nation but the NPKC will not be responsible if any unrest occurs and further delays promulgation of the new constitution, he said.

"If the other side creates trouble, causing unrest outside the National Legislative Assembly, then the elections might be postponed further," he warned.

Most political parties have announced their opposition to the draft with some, such as the New Aspiration and the Democrat parties, announcing outright that they will mobilise their resources, including public rallies, to oppose what they call an undemocratic constitution.

Opposition is also mounting against the possibility that Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun could become the next prime minister since the general said on Friday that whether or not he would accept such an offer depended on the political situation after the elections.

Daily Comments on Khmer Peace Future

BK3108040991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Aug 91 p A10

[Editorial: "Cambodian Parties Now Can't Afford To Sidetrack"]

[Text] The Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Phatthaya that ended Thursday was unprecedented. The outcome, despite some remaining difficulties, raises high hopes that peace will finally come to Cambodia after more than two decades of war and internal conflict.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen must have been confident when they announced that the 12-year-old war, which witnessed thousands of troops and civilians killed, was over. The two leaders knew well that peace is in the offing partly due to their cooperation.

As the Cambodians contemplate ways to handle peace and their future, there is a lingering doubt that somehow their efforts and aspirations would not be met by outside peace makers—the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC]. The Permanent Five drew up a peace plan last year to serve as a guideline for the rival Cambodian factions to settle their civil war. Now that the Cambodian factions have made up their mind on various aspects of the peace settlement, the Permanent Five should pay attention to their voices.

At issue here is the plan to cut troops and disarm those remaining by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). The Cambodian factions agree to a 70 per cent reduction of their forces. The troop-cut agreement allowed the belligerent Cambodians to proceed and adopt common points on equally important issues, such as the SNC's relationship with UNTAC and the wording relating to the Khmer Rouge's past policy of genocide, leaving the electoral system to be decided in the next SNC meeting in New York next month.

When the SNC members held talks with the Permament Five yesterday, they managed to speak with uniformity and convince the Security Council members to accept their demobilization plan though with some reservations. Obviously, the Permanent Five has treated Prince Norodom Sihanouk with respect because of his role as the SNC president in steering the difficult negotiation on the draft peace plan. They have long expressed support for the prince, a symbol for the anti-Vietnamese resistance.

The Permanent Five's reservations are understandable as they did not want to see further fighting inside Cambodia. In the communique released at the end of their meeting, the Permanent Five still demand a total demobilization of all Cambodian armed forces either before or shortly after elections. UNTAC will control all weapons of the remaining forces. Finally, UNTAC will have a final say in the definition of armed forces. The Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh have been squabbling over the definition of what comprises the armed forces that are to be trimmed down.

It is hoped that when the SNC meets again, its 12 members will come with a clear head and make further progress, which will allow for the reconvening of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia to pave the way for the signing of a peace treaty. It is high time that the Cambodians realized that the whole world is watching them closely and expects a peace agreement to result. Any attempt by any party to sidetrack or slow down the peace process now would certainly bring international condemnation.

Ministry Claims EC Tape Piracy Overestimated

BK0209051491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 91 p 17

[Text] The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) in Brussels has overestimated the value of European Community musical tape piracy in Thailand, the Commerce Ministry claims.

The federation had claimed the triving Thai piracy industry had cost EC record producers more than US$200 million over the past 10 years, or about 500 million baht a year.

But the Commerce Ministry claimed the total value of EC musical tape piracy was not more than 240 million baht a year.

An informed ministry source said at the weekend that the total value of the musical tape market in Thailand per year was 3,000 million baht, of which 600 million baht was foreign musical tapes.

The source said the EC musical tapes made up only 40 percent of the foreign musical tape market, totalling 240 million baht—not nearly as high as the federation's claims.

The federation had complained that pirated recordings in Thailand were widely sold in other countries and that Thailand had broken the Bern Convention, of which the country was a member. The Bern Convention gave protection to song composers and arrangers.

The source said the federation had calculated the value of piracy from samples of major tape distribution areas. It had concluded that all areas throughout the country had similar consumption behaviour.

"The major tape distribution areas are located in some areas in Bangkok and some major provinces, including Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima and Songkhla. The other provinces had very little musical tape piracy," the source said.

Piracy values should be estimated only in areas where pirated tapes had damaged EC producers. The federation should not overestimate the value of Thai piracy, he said.

Also, the federation had overestimated the price of each tape, calculating the total piracy value by using 75 baht as the price of one cassette. However, retailers got only 25 baht per cassette.

Thailand would clarify this with the EC Committee through the Royal Thai Embassy in Brussels by September 7.

If Thai piracy was proved to be damaging to the EC, the community could consider retaliation by withdrawing trade concessions to Thailand, or imposing higher customs tariffs and quantity restrictions on Thai exports.

Vietnam

SRV Reportage Covers Cambodia Meeting

Hanoi Radio Gives Preview

BK3008135591 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 26 Aug 91

[Article by Thanh Hai]

[Text] The official meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia is scheduled to take place in Phattaya, Thailand from 26 to 27 August 1991 [as heard]. This is an interesting event for world public opinion, and everyone is hopeful that the meeting will end in success leading to an overall solution to the 12-year-old conflict in Cambodia.

World public opinion has recognized and appreciated the fact that in preparation for this meeting, the Government of the State of Cambodia has adopted a goodwill stance through its willingness to discuss all the problems involved in a very constructive spirit aimed at reaching an agreement on the Cambodian issue to put an end to the suffering of the Cambodian people.

In a recent interview granted to (George Fabretti), an Italian journalist, Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong pointed out: The State of Cambodia is willing to make more concessions at the SNC meeting in Phattaya to reach an overall solution to the Cambodian issue. He also disclosed that a problem still exists regarding the military aspect of the solution. He said: No decision has been made on the military issue, but we will discuss it in Phattaya. What is acceptable to us is that weapons and ammunition must be under close UN supervision. We think this measure is good enough to guarantee security and stability for general elections.

Public opinion has also noted that at its 21st session in mid-August, the First Cambodian National Assembly adopted a four-point appeal to the world community. The appeal points out that first, the world community should contribute to consolidating the achievements of the SNC. Second, it should support the efforts of Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk because these efforts may lay the groundwork for the SNC to settle the remaining problems and reach a final formula acceptable to all Cambodian parties. Third, it should create favorable conditions for the SNC meeting this time in Thailand to score final results, and should also call on the Cambodian opposition factions to adopt a goodwill and practical attitude and put the interests of the nation and people above everything else to promptly end the conflict. Fourth, it is necessary to lift all economic embargoes and provide the Cambodian people with humanitarian aid so they can accelerate the building of material and spiritual bases for national reconciliation.

As the foreign mass media has noted, the appeal and its sentence structures are proof of the goodwill and important concessions the Phnom Penh Government has made to the Cambodian opposition factions. Public opinion, including that of Thailand, China, Indonesia, and the five superpowers, has also noted world support for the SNC meeting in Phattaya this time.

In China on 22 August, RENMIN RIBAO, China's largest newspaper, ran an article titled: "The Light of a Political Solution to the Cambodian Issue Has Appeared." The article says: The search for a political solution to the Cambodian issue has reached an important final stage. The world community cannot wait any longer and neither can the Cambodian people. The Cambodian parties must put the great duty toward the nation above everything else and must eliminate hostilities and work together in putting an end to suffering. At this juncture, everyone is looking forward to the success of the SNC meeting in Phattaya and is hopeful that the international conference on Cambodia will be reconvened soon in Paris so that the agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue may be signed and the Cambodian people may avoid war and embark on the path to peace and development.

The start of a new meeting of the SNC today, public support, and the latest developments around the Cambodian issue—Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk's invitations to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and the foreign ministers of Australia, Indonesia, Japan, North Korea, and Thailand to visit Cambodia, and the sending of the first groups of specialists from a number of countries to reopen their embassies following establishment of the SNC headquarters in Phnom Penh—are indications of an encouraging major breakthrough in settling the Cambodian problem. This breakthrough fills the Vietnamese people, other peoples in Southeast Asia, and the world community with the hope that the new SNC meeting which starts in Phattaya today will end in success.

The results of the previous SNC meetings in Phattaya and Beijing have opened up important steps in the search for an overall political solution to the Cambodian problem. Those results show that the Cambodian people are fully capable of resolving their internal affairs with the support of the world community.

To reach an overall solution to the Cambodian issue, the SNC must make great personal efforts, and the world community must achieve close cooperation with and show goodwill toward the SNC on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

Vietnam, which has done all it can to help reach an early overall political solution to the Cambodian problem, warmly welcomes the new meeting of the SNC this time and is hopeful that this meeting will make important breakthroughs and meet the aspirations of the Cambodian people as well as the peoples in the region and the rest of the world.

Radio Cites Results

BK3108035091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Radio review of recent meeting of Cambodian Supreme National Council]

[Text] The first official meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] held from 26 to 28 August in Phatthaya, Thailand obtained significant results.

According to Mr. Sihanouk, all Cambodian sides agreed to cut their armed forces by 70 percent each and the remaining 30 percent will return to their barracks and will be put under UN supervision. They also agreed to hand over their weapons to UN control group.

Mr. Sihanouk said: The reduction of the army will begin when the United Nations' Transitional Authorities in Cambodia, UNTAC, arrives in that country. The time for UNTAC to come to Cambodia will be fixed later. All Cambodian sides agreed to let the four ministries of foreign affairs, national defense, interior, information, and finance belong to the State of Cambodia but they are to be put under UNTAC control.

The SNC agreed on the division of tasks between the SNC and the UN in the transition period before the general elections. According to Mr. Sihanouk, the prevention of the return of the genocidal regime discussed later in a meeting to be held in New York in September this year. There were three important issues to be discussed by the SNC to bring a lasting solution to the Cambodian issue, mainly the role of the armed forces, the prevention of the return of the genocidal regime and the UN role in settling the Cambodian issue.

The most important of these issues is the role of the armed forces which was specifically agreed on at this meeting. There is a transition to be discussed by the SNC in the upcoming meeting which will include (?confrontation) with the UN Security Council. According to the British news agency REUTER, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, Richard Boucher, when speaking to newsmen in Washington on 27 August, said: The U.S. welcomes the Cambodian factions' agreement to cut their armed forces by 70 percent each because this will end the civil war in Cambodia.

Mr. Boucher said: The U.S. welcomes the progress by the Cambodian sides in reaching an overall solution to the Cambodian issue. Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Solomon, who was in Bangkok to observe the Phatthaya meeting of the SNC, also asserted that the agreement reached by all Cambodian sides at this meeting has been positive. This agreement made an important turning point to the Cambodian factions' search for a final solution to the Cambodian issue. The settlement of the armed forces is a big step in ending the 12-year war in Cambodia. Most important is the existence and operation of the SNC, the only legal representative of Cambodia. It shows that the Cambodian issue is being solved by Cambodians themselves.

Sihanouk, Hun Sen, Nguyen Duy Nien Meet

BK3008160791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Aug 91

[Text] Prince Sihanouk, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council—SNC—cordially received Mr. Nguyen Duy Nien, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister, in Phatthaya, Thailand, on 30 August 1991.

The prince informed him of the developments and the fine results of the SNC meeting held in Phatthaya from 26-29 August 1991 as well as steps toward signing an agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien expressed Vietnam's support for the cause of national reconciliation in Cambodia and affirmed that Vietnam respects all the SNC's decisions on matters concerning Cambodian sovereignty, that Vietnam welcomes and highly values those important agreements reached during recent SNC sessions chaired by Prince Sihanouk, and that Vietnam believes that the Cambodian parties will soon settle their outstanding problems so the Paris international conference—PICC—can soon be reconvened to sign an agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien conveyed to Prince Sihanouk an invitation from Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, and from the Vietnamese government for Prince Sihanouk and his wife and Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers and his wife, to pay an official visit to Vietnam by the end of 1991. Prince Sihanouk accepted the invitation with pleasure.

The reception took place in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Earlier, also in Phatthaya, Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia Council of Ministers, cordially received Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien. Chairman Hun Sen informed Comrade Nguyen Dy Nien of the fine results of the SNC meeting. Comrade Nguyen Dy Nien welcomed and highly valued the good-will stance of the State of Cambodia and its untiring efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Cambodia and an early comprehensive political solution to Cambodia, viewing this as a great contribution to the success of this SNC meeting.

The Vietnamese deputy foreign minister conveyed to Chairman Hun Sen an invitation from Mr. Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, for Chairman Hun Sen and his wife as well as Prince Sihanouk and his wife to pay an official visit to Vietnam by the end of 1991.

Chairman Hun Sen accepted this invitation with pleasure. The reception took place in a very cordial and brother-like friendly atmosphere.

While in Phatthaya, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien made many contacts and exchanges of view with Mr. (Igor Rogachev), Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister; Mr. (Menrocha), permanent secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. (Jean Davis), chief delegate of the French Ministry of External Affairs; and Mr. (Iriono), chief delegate of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry.

Results Welcomed

BK0109093391 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Duong Quang Minh's commentary: "Another Progress in the Settlement of the Cambodian Issue"]

[Text] The Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia has concluded its latest meeting from 26-29 August 1991 in Phattaya, Thailand. The joint communique of the meeting unanimously agreed on the following:

—The control over the ceasefire and cessation of foreign military assistance;

—The arrangement of all forces of the Cambodian parties;

—The relationship between the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the SNC;

—The political system;

—Human rights and the principles for a new constitution for Cambodia, and so forth.

The SNC unanimously agreed with the proposal that all forces of the Cambodian parties be reduced by 70 percent; that arms, ammunition, equipment of these forces be reduced by 70 percent as well; and that the remaining 30 percent of these forces be regrouped and relocated to specifically designated cantonment areas under the supervision of UNTAC.

The SNC requested the UN secretary general to send at least 200 UN personnel to Cambodia as obervers in September 1991 to assist the SNC in supervising the ceasefire and cessation of foreign military assistance.

The SNC will offer advice to UNTAC, which will comply with this advice. Prince Sihanouk will act as mediator if there is no consensus on any given matter.

It must be said that the above-mentioned agreement reflects the aspirations of the Cambodian people—namely, an end to the war and restoration of peace so that they can build their lives. This agreement is a positive contribution to the search for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue under which the Cambodian people's right to self-determination will be guaranteed and the UN Charter will be respected.

Another salient feature is the fact that through the results of the SNC meeting in Thailand this time, people are fully aware of the whole process of all the meetings between the Cambodian parties, especially between Prince Sihanouk and Chairman Hun Sen, with the first one taking place in Fere-en-Tardenois, a city north of Paris, France, in early December 1987.

The first Sihanouk-Hun Sen joint communique dated 4 December 1987 points out that the settlement of the Cambodian issue will be carried out only through peaceful negotiations, that Cambodia's affairs must be settled by the Cambodian people themselves, and that although there is a need for an international conference on Cambodia, this conference will only help the Cambodian people with the settlement of their affairs and will have no right to make any impositions on the Cambodian people or to settle those affairs on their behalf.

Since then, the Cambodian Government has lived up to its commitment and has untiringly struggled for an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue, thus meeting the interests of its people and nation and contributing to turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and development. Obviously, these efforts of the State of Cambodia are sound and effective.

Progressive world public opinion has expressed satisfaction and support to agreements reached by SNC members at the Phatthaya meeting this time. The Soviet ambassador to Cambodia said: The Cambodian people know better than us, foreigners, how to build their own home because they will live there, and as a result we should respect agreements reached by them at this meeting. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said: It is time that we let the Cambodian people cook their own meals. The Japanese chief of cabinet said: Japan welcomes agreements just reached by the Cambodian factions and contends that this is an important step in the efforts to resolve the Cambodian issue; Japan hopes for a just and long-lasting peace in Cambodia as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the French minister of state for foreign affairs said: Important progress has been made in the effort to seek a political solution to the Cambodian issue. France contends that in the present situation, the convening of the final Paris International Conference on Cambodia is necessary.

As for Vietnam, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in his recent statement said: Vietnam welcomes the results of the Phatthaya SNC meeting and considers this an appropriate approach to a political solution to the Cambodian issue, thus meeting the Cambodian people's interests and in conformity with the interests of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in the region and the world. Vietnam once again affirms its respect for all the SNC decisions on matters concerning Cambodian sovereignty and continues to make its contributions to achieving an early reasonable and fair political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Things are not as smooth as expected, however. Prince Sihanouk, president of the SNC, in a statement at the end of the Phatthaya meeting said that the United States and Great Britain still adopt a rigid attitude toward the Cambodian issue, that they want Cambodia to submit to the outside influence and want to degrade the SNC, and as a result the SNC must make great efforts to implement the agreements that have been attained.

It is necessary to mention here that the international community should make greater efforts to help the SNC to implement its tasks in the interests of the Cambodian people and in conformity with the UN charter.

Vice Foreign Minister Comments on Meeting

Part I

BK0209020891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Sep 91 p A10

["Excerpts" of an interview with Nguyen Dy Nien, SRV Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, by correspondents Kunlachada Chaiphiphat and Yindi Loetcharoenchok during the Cambodian Supreme National Council talks in Phatthaya 26-29 August; part one of two]

[Text] [NATION] Mr Minister, word has got out that you talked on Friday morning with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Could you please brief us on the discussion?

[Nien] I had a very good talk with His Royal Highness the Prince for 75 minutes. It is a great pleasure and great honour for me to call on him.

I have conveyed to him an invitation from our president (for) him and Her Royal Highness the Princess to visit Vietnam some time at the end of the year. I also conveyed the same invitation to His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen to visit Vietnam at the same time. The prince accepted it with pleasure. Now only the time has yet to be fixed. As president of the SNC (Supreme National Council), the prince is rather busy. He has a very heavy schedule.

The prince has also informed me about the progress of the SNC and I expressed our appreciation of the role played by him as the SNC president. The meeting has made big progress although there are still remaining issues, but it paves the way for further discussions and for the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in order to achieve a final agreement of the Cambodian problem.

[NATION] What is the purpose of the visit of Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen to Vietnam?

[Nien] It is the first time for many years that the prince will visit Vietnam. The significance of it is that now that the SNC has been formed with the prince elected unanimously as the president. And since he has assumed his office as SNC president, progress has been made. The way to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian issue is cleared now. The peace vehicle is now moving to its objective.

[NATION] Did the prince invite any senior Vietnamese official to visit Phnom Penh during his return to Cambodia in November?

[Nien] He did not mention that. I think when the SNC is settled down there and everything is all right, it (will be) natural to invite friends especially neighbours like Vietnam, Laos and Thailand to visit Cambodia.

[NATION] Did Vietnam decide to accredit an ambassador to the SNC in Phnom Penh?

[Nien] Yes, we did. We will accredit an ambassador to the president of the SNC.

[NATION] Does it mean you will set up another separate permanent mission there or will you will have the same ambassador to Phnom Penh accredited to the SNC?

[Nien] That will be discussed. But I think it is good to have only one ambassador, because too many ambassadors at the same time and same place is not easy to work (out). It is better that we have one ambassador who is accredited to the government in Phnom Penh and to the SNC, and I have already conveyed the accreditation of an ambassador to the prince.

[NATION] You earlier mentioned during your transit here from China early last month that you would be here to "facilitate" the meeting of the Supreme National Council. How do you find your role here now and how far have you been facilitating the SNC meeting?

[Nien] I just followed the meeting like you. I think the progress made in the meeting is as good as we expected. Of course there are differences, but at last they came to some compromise, and it is good. The situation in Cambodia is very complex, so it needs some discussion (to) find a compromise.

[Nation] What is Vietnam's position on Phnom Penh's "A-3" police force? Should the A-3 be included in the 70 percent troop demobilization plan?

[Nien] The A-3, as explained by Mr Hun Sen, has not been in existence for the past three years. I don't think the UN framework document mention anything about the A-3. Anyway, it all depends on the talks among the SNC members. I think Mr Hun Sen has categorically made it clear that it is no (longer) in existence. And that is how Vietnam feels about it.

[NATION] There has been much talk about the success of the SNC meeting here being due partly to thawing relations between Vietnam and China. What would be your comment?

[Nien] I think there are many factors, and the improving relations between the two countries is also a good factor that has enabled conditions to promote the process of the peace settlement.

[NATION] What are the other factors?

[Nien] I think it is a sense of national reconciliation. This is very important. The goodwill and the concessions made by the government of Phnom Penh is also a very important factor.

[NATION] Has Prince Norodom Sihanouk requested any assistance from Vietnam into the next round of Cambodian talks?

[Nien] No, we have not come to that point. It was the first call (for many years) of a Vietnamese ministerial official on the prince, so we discussed a lot of things. The prince is very happy, (it) reminded him of the old days when he was in Hanoi including the time when he celebrated the Tet (New Year) festival in Vietnam and so on.

[NATION] Did he invite you to attend the next SNC meeting?

[Nien] No, we did not discuss that point, but I think, he would be happy if we were present in the next meeting.

[NATION] Are you satisfied with the progress made by the SNC members here or do you expect something more?

[Nien] One always hopes for something more. But I think we have to realize the reality. I fully agreed with His Royal Highness Prince Sihanouk that it is a complex issue. It needs a profound exchanges of views to come to a settlement.

Vietnam welcomes the progress made by the SNC, and we respect their decision. We more than welcome this success.

[NATION] The next round of SNC talks is going to tackle another very crucial issue: the electoral system. Does Hanoi have any suggestion to either Cambodian party?

[Nien] That depends on the SNC decision. Our position is clear that we accept all the decisions taken by the SNC.

In Asia and in many parts of the world the election usually is a one ballot majority, whether in Vietnam, Thailand and even in Cambodia as the prince has mentioned. In 1957 the election there was also the single ballot. (The single ballot system is supported by Phnom Penh, while the resistance is arguing for a proportional-representation system - ed.) Even in the West only few countries use proportional representation. I think it is better to apply the single ballot.

The most important issue now is the election. I think a just, reasonable, free and fair election is important to Cambodia. Of course everything during the transitional period is important but the most important thing is the election.

[NATION] How do you view the role of the United Nations? In your opinion, to what extent should the UN have a role in Cambodia?

[Nien] The UN has a very important role to play in Cambodia, as mentioned in the Perm Five document (the peace plan drafted by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council). But at the same time the UN has to respect the sovereignty of Cambodia and the principle of the UN charter, because Cambodia is a sovereign state. But the UN of course has an important role to play especially in the elections.

[NATION] The Cambodian resistance has always contended that despite the announced Vietnamese troop withdrawal in 1989, there still remain tens of thousands of them in disguise as Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia. Is it true?

[Nien] No, I think we have no more troops or soldiers in Cambodian territory. But of course we have the relations with the State of Cambodia, we have people who go to visit the country on economic or trade missions. We change delegations and so on, and this is normal.

At the same time the number of Vietnamese residents there is small in comparison with the Chinese. I don't know the exact number, but very very few.

[NATION] Does Vietnam still have officers or advisers in Cambodia?

[Nien] We do in some fields such as economics. It is the same way we usually have with other countries. We also have Soviet advisers and some UN advisers now in Vietnam.

[NATION] Do you anticipate the reconvening of the Paris conference within this year?

[Nien] Yes, it is our hope that by the end of the year the Paris conference can be resumed, maybe before the SNC moves to Phnom Penh. The SNC will have the next meeting in New York—I think after that the Paris conference can take place first with the coordinating committee to be followed by the ministerial meeting. Then it is good that after that the prince and the SNC will return to Phnom Penh.

[NATION] Have you discussed with the prince that the peace process should go at this speed?

[Nien] Yes, I think the prince mentioned this timeframe to me.

Part II

BK0309013591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Sep 91 p A10

["Text" of an interview with Nguyen Dy Nien, SRV Vice Minister of foreign affairs. By correspondents Kunlachada Chaiphiphat and Yindi Loetcharoenchok during the Cambodian Supreme National Council talks in Phatthaya 26-29 Aug; part two of two]

[Text] [NATION] You have met with Mr Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific. What did you two discuss?

[Nien] I met him before I came to Phatthaya, and I also met him at the reception here when Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin held a dinner Wednesday in honour of the SNC [Supreme National Council] members.

We talked about normalization, Cambodia and everything. On Cambodia, I think because the new developments have emerged, everything is moving very fast and new factors have entered the picture. It creates a good condition for normalization between Vietnam and the United States.

Vietnam and China already have decided to normalize relations. In the world there is only one country that has yet to normalize its ties with Vietnam and that is the United States. We hope the U.S. would take a step closer to normalization.

[NATION] It seems that the U.S. is still demanding progress in the issues of prisoners of war (PoW) and American missing in action (MiA) as preconditions toward full normalization with Vietnam. Did Mr Solomon mention the two issues during his meeting with you?

[Nien] Yes, I think the PoW and the MiA are the only issues left, and we in Vietnam, try our best to cooperate with the United States to settle these issues.

Now we have only 62 cases of discrepancy. We need to exchange information, and we are ready to receive the members of American families, who have the missing family members. We will facilitate everything for the groups to find the remains of the MiA and I think we will also have full cooperation from all the sectors. I told Mr Solomon that we will cooperate fully.

[NATION] In your view, do you think the U.S. is satisfied with the outcome so far of the SNC meeting?

[Nien] Yes, Mr Solomon already expressed that the United States welcomes the progress made in this SNC meeting.

[NATION] Did he make any reservation that the peace process might not be consistent with the Perm Five peace plan in the context of comprehensive political settlement or in the context of U.S.-Vietnam normalization?

[Nien] The political settlement must be in the context of the Perm Five peace plan. You know, the United States has a road map in its relations with Vietnam. The road map is rather backward now, because the development has been moving ahead of the road map, so I think there must be some adjustment to the road map.

[NATION] Was there any discussion as to when the next U.S.-Vietnamese talks would take place?

[Nien] We have not yet fixed the time, but we will have Vice Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co going to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly, so it is a good chance that we will resume our talks with the United States. In principle, we have agreed to meet again. For the time being, we have yet to fix the date of the meeting.

[NATION] When will the new round of Sino-Vietnamese talks on normalization take place?

[Nien] Our foreign minister (Nguyen Manh Cam) will go to Beijing sometime in the near future. The announcement will be made later when we fix the date. His visit there will be the first ever by a Vietnamese foreign minister for many years.

I myself have already invited Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Xu Dunxin to Vietnam and he has already accepted it but the date has not yet been fixed.

But anyway there already exists a number of contacts between the two countries, because we have now agreed to normalize our relations in the fields of trade, economy, transportation, airline, shipping, telecommunications and so on.

[NATION] Will there be any more "secret meetings" between the leaders of the two countries and any possibility for exchange visits between the party chiefs of the two countries?

[Nien] I think from now on there will be only open talks. On the second question, I think there is a possibility in the future.

[NATION] Does Beijing still insist on waiting to see a final comprehensive settlement in Cambodia before the full normalization of Sino-Vietnamese ties?

[Nien] No, I don't think that is a condition anymore.

[NATION] There are concerns and even fears that China and Vietnam have worked out a "Red Solution" for Cambodia. What is your comment?

[Nien] There is no "Red Solution." Everybody understands now that there is no "Red Solution." Vietnam, China and the United States are clear such a solution does not exist. Now it is a comprehensive solution that everybody is expecting, and we are closely following the SNC meeting in Phatthaya.

[NATION] How do you and Mr Xu Dunxin share the view on the SNC outcome in Phatthaya?

[Nien] We are happy that there are good results. Progress has been made in this meeting as we both had earlier expected.

[NATION] You met Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin twice, the first time in Bangkok and the second here in Phatthaya. Was there any discussion on his planned visit to Vietnam?

[Nien] Yes, we have discussed it, and we are very happy that Foreign Minister Asa accepted our invitation to visit Vietnam in September.

The two countries are in a process of finalizing and preparing four draft agreements to be signed during his visit. The first one which will certainly be signed is an agreement to establish a joint commission on economic cooperation.

The others are the agreements on promotion and protection of trade and investment, on the avoidance of double taxation, and on the fishing cooperation.

On the fishing cooperation, a number of Thai fishermen are doing business in Vietnam, therefore, we have proposed to the Thai Foreign Ministry that the two countries should have a mechanism to resolve fishery disputes or related problems. The mechanism should be like the one Thailand has with Laos or other countries. It is at the national level and also at the provincial level. Both Thailand and Vietnam have the interest to solve all their bilateral problems.

Vietnam has already invited a working group from the Thai consular section to visit south Vietnam before Mr Asa's visit to see for themselves the true situation there so that the two countries can resolve the fishing dispute. We think it is very good if we could set up a permanent mechanism to solve the fishery problems.

[NATION] Has the date been fixed for Mr Asa's visit to Vietnam and where will he will be visiting?

[Nien] He will be in Vietnam for three days in the middle of this month. He will visit Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Among others he will meet Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

[NATION] Does Foreign Minister Nguyen Mahn Cam have any plan to visit countries in this region?

[Nien] Yes, he hopes to visit Thailand and other ASEAN countries in the near future.

[NATION] Will this region be the first leg of his foreign visit?

[Nien] Yes, I think so. It is always our neighbours first. Moreover, the first foreign minister whom he will meet will be Minister Asa.

[NATION] Will Foreign Minister Cam travel to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly this year?

[Nien] Minister Cam returned from Moscow on August 16. He will not be able to go to the UN because he will have a heavy schedule at home. Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co will be going to the UN.

[NATION] Before you came to Phatthaya, Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin and Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and yourself had a dinner together in Bangkok. It seems to be the first of such a tripartite meeting.

[Nien] Yes, it is the first time that the three countries met together.

[NATION] Are you suggesting that Thailand has been playing some sort of mediating role on the normalization of relations between China and Vietnam?

[Nien] Yes, I think Thailand has played a very good role. I appreciate Thailand in this matter.

Thailand has also assisted in the Cambodian peace process. It facilitates and creates an understanding and atmosphere and it is good that we three met in Bangkok.

[NATION] Foreign Minister Asa was quick to say that it was a historic event for you three to meet for the first time. Wasn't it?

[Nien] Yes, indeed it was.

[NATION] Is it true that the fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe has played a crucial role in speeding up the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese ties as the two countries feared a similar upheaval in their own countries?

[Nien] No, it is not true. Our normalization with China is clearly stated by both countries. It is based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence, and we are friendly with all the countries. We stated very clearly that Vietnam would like to be friends with everyone in the world.

[NATION] Do you think the collapse of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union will have an impact on the region and Vietnam?

[Nien] I think what is happening in the Soviet Union will have a great impact all over the world, not just Vietnam.

[NATION] Will the Soviet decline worsen the economic situation in Vietnam?

[Nien] I think not in that sense. The Soviet Union is a very big trade partner with Vietnam, but for the last two years we have already signed many trade agreements with other countries. We also signed agreements with the republics in the Soviet Union, so I think what happened there does not affect our country very much.

Foreign Minister Discusses Sino-Vietnamese Ties

BK0109090491 Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese 31 Aug 91 p 4

[By correspondent Liu Zhenyan in Phatthaya]

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien said yesterday that contacts between Chinese and Vietnamese officials, which were earlier kept secret, had now become open. In addition, relations between the two countries gradually tend to be normal.

Granting an interview to a correspondent of this newspaper, Nguyen Dy Nien said that Sino-Vietnamese relations, which have deteriorated since 1978, are close to normalization thanks to the joint efforts of diplomats of the two countries.

He said that relations between the two countries had greatly improved following his two consultative meetings with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin in Bangkok and Beijing this month. He said: "The improvement of Sino-Vietnamese relations will create conditions conducive to a political settlement of the Cambodian problem."

During the meeting between the Chinese and Vietnamese deputy foreign ministers between 8 and 10 August, Vietnam, for the first time, agreed with an early comprehensive, just, and reasonable solution to the Cambodian problem on the basis of the framework of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and respected all decisions made by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia under the leadership of Prince Sihanouk.

Beijing has repeatedly stated that Sino-Vietnamese relations will be normalized only after the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict is completely settled; however, Hanoi hopes that relations between the two countries will be normalized before the Chinese national day which falls on 1 October.

Nguyen Dy Nien said that diplomatic relations between China and Vietnam will continue to develop well on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

A high-ranking Chinese Foreign Ministry official yesterday confirmed to our newspaper that newly appointed Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam will visit Beijing in early September at the invitation of State Councillor and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

China will be the first country that Nguyen Manh Cam, who is 62 years old and formerly ambassador to Moscow, will visit after assuming the foreign minister post in the middle of this month.

The official said that Nguyen Manh Cam's visit to China is designed to pave the way for the upcoming visit to China by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], by late September or early November.

He said: "Do Muoi's visit to China will signify the official normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations."

Before this, former CPV general secretary Nguyen Van Linh and General Le Duc Anh, the number two man in the CPV, made secret visits to China last September and in August, respectively.

Hanoi Reports Li Peng on Sino-SRV Ties

BK0209113891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Sept 91

[Text] According to XINHUA, in an interview with the Hong Kong Radio and Television Corporation on 1 September, Chinese Premier Li Peng said: We mentioned earlier that Sino-Vietnamese relations will be gradually returned to normal along with the total, fair, and rational settlement of the Cambodian issue. We are pleased to see that the process of resolving the Cambodian issue is being accelerated and that it is in favor of the normalization of relations between China and Vietnam.

Premier Li Peng said China has pursued a foreign policy of good neighborliness and maintained friendly ties with all neighboring countries in the interests of China's development programs. He also said Sino-Vietnamese relations in the future will be at governmental level based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and that it will not affect current friendly relations between China and other Southeast Asian nations.

Further on Li Peng, Ties

BK0209141491 Hanoi VNA in English 1400 GMT 2 Sept 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 2—"The Sino-Vietnamese relations will be normalized in the near future," report XINHUA quoting Chinese Premier Li Peng as saying in Beijing Saturday, 1 September.

In an interview with the Television Broadcast LTD. of Hongkong, the Chinese Premier said: "We had said before that Sino-Vietnamese relations would gradually return to normal along with a comprehensive, just and reasonable political settlement of the Cambodian issue.... We are pleased to see that the process to settle the Cambodian issue is being speeded up, and it goes without saying this is conducive".

Mr. Li noted that China pursues a good-neighbour policy and is willing to maintain friendly relations with all its neighbouring countries because this is beneficial to China's construction and development.

He further said that the future Sino-Vietnamese relations will be state-to-state relations based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and will not effect the existing friendly cooperation between China and Southeastern Asian Countries.

Le Kim Discusses U.S. Antisocialist Strategy

BK0309081791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Le Kim's article: "The White House's Consistent Strategy Against Socialist Countries"]

[Text] Much has been said and written about the acts of sabotage and subversion of the Central Intelligence Agency, also known as the CIA. Of course, the CIA is but a tool to directly carry out the U.S. imperialists' spy, sabotage, and subversive activities. The nerve center of the CIA lies in a group of special U.S. presidential advisers on foreign affairs. In his book titled "Secrets About Intelligence Agencies" made public in 1974 by the (Arato) Publishing House, (Gette Bucahay), a German researcher, said: The CIA is under the direct supervision of the National Security Council, whose chairman is the U.S. president himself, as specified under a decree dated 18 September 1947 and approved by both houses of the U.S. Congress. The president is assisted by a group of special advisers on foreign affairs. This group serves as the very nerve center for formulating a strategy of sabotage and subversion for the CIA and other intelligence agencies to implement.

A typical example is Professor Doctor Henry Kissinger, a German of Israeli ancestry who emigrated to the United States and obtained U.S. citizenship some time before the start of World War II. Henry Kissinger once assumed the post of special adviser to U.S. President Nixon on foreign affairs. Despite the fact that he never admitted his role as a spy, it was Kissinger who engineered a plot to topple the Allende government in Chile in 1971 through the use of the CIA.

Since the post-1975 period, the Kissinger star has been constantly on the wane. As noted by a number of U.S. newspapers, the next star after Kissinger was Brzezinski, a Pole who emigrated to the United States in 1953 and who once served as special adviser on security and foreign affairs to former U.S. President Carter. Brzezinski now acts as special collaborator of the Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee, directly subordinate to the U.S. president.

Brzezinski was first called a specialist on Soviet and Eastern European affairs. Next, he became a sinologist and then a specialist on Communist affairs in the east. When Bush became CIA director and then vice president and president of the United States, Brzezinski served as an influential collaborator of the Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee under Bush.

So far, Professor Brzezinski has conducted a series of strategically important research projects to be distributed to the general public. His works include "The Soviet Bloc," "Between Two Ages," "Power and Principles," and most recently, "The Birth and Death of Communism in the Twentieth Century," which was published almost at the same time with "Victory Without War" by former U.S. President Nixon.

As noted by many U.S. newspapers, however, the above-mentioned works are only the tip of the iceberg. The sunken part consists of those recommendations and suggestions that Brzezinski and other members of the Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Advisory Committeee have submitted to President Bush. Of course, the sunken part belongs to the White House's top secret dossiers and only a very small part of those documents has been exposed by the press. Although the information obtained from those leaked documents is neither very substantial nor very accurate, it does help expose before public opinion the attempts of the United States to adjust its strategy aimed at undermining the socialist camp at present.

Some time in 1989 when former CIA Director Bush had become U.S. president and Professor Brzezinski had published "A Major Setback: The Birth and Death of Communism in the Twentieth Century," that group of special advisers on intelligence and foreign affairs provided Bush with a plan to reorganize the CIA so that it could adapt itself to the new situation. As noted by that group, since its inception in 1947 the CIA has opted for a very consistent anticommunist policy aimed at blockading the socialist countries from the outside and at conducting sabotage and subversion from the inside.

The socialist countries have reacted by adopting a strict policy against the United States and the CIA and by taking stern action against antigovernment actions. This tense confrontation has led to a series of sabotage plots devised by the CIA to make up for its losses.

In 1985, that group of advisors had a recommendation to make along these lines: The situation has changed. The ice of the cold war has begun to thaw. The U.S. president should improve relations with the Soviet Union and other Eastern European communist countries and even take advantage of the economic difficulties facing those countries to extend financial assistance to them; however, care must be taken to force them to comply with the conditions set by the capitalist camp as follows: First, let them adopt an open-door policy and second, let them broaden democracy and respect human rights.

Keeping the door wide open is a policy aimed at creating favorable conditions for the CIA to carry out infiltration; expanding democracy is aimed at creating favorable conditions for the CIA to stir agitation and foment disorder; and respecting human rights is aimed at protecting those engaged in espionage, sabotage, subversive, and opposition activities.

That group of advisers also suggested that due to favorable conditions created by the new situation for sabotage and subversive activities, the CIA should quickly renovate its thinking. This means that in the past the United States only sought to carry out sabotage and subversive activities in the communist countries through its association with various anticommunist elements, but now it should extend its affectionate hands to the radical communists who are also called advocates of non-Marxist socialism, especially those in the leadership composition. This is aimed at tactfully persuading them to pull their countries out of the orbit of the socialist system, move closer to the West, and then become dependent on the West and the United States itself.

Early this year, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Poland event—the Solidarity opposition movement which was initiated in 1981—the group of advisers to President Bush carefully analyzed the case involving the use of a part of the working class to take the lead in establishing a noncommunist adminstration in Poland. Prof. Brzezinski also launched a research project which was considered a recapitulation of the achievements of the opposition movement in Poland, the country he knows so well. Brzezinski himself considered the Polish event the starting point of the movement with a binding effect on all the Eastern European countries.

The developments in Eastern Europe are encouraging the group of President Bush's advisers to involve themselves deeply in the task of effecting a new strategy with insane ambitions aimed at advancing the process of disintegration of socialism. Specialists on Indochina and Asia, including Brzezinski, are in ecstasy from accumulating experiences with the achievements in Eastern Europe in preparation for a final offensive on the communist countries in Asia, such as China, Korea, and Vietnam.

In this issue, however, there is a difference in certain points between the group of Bush's advisers and the CIA. The group of U.S. presidential advisers suggested that neutral radio stations—such as the BBC or RFI—be used optimally to stir agitation because such radio stations as Freedom, Free Europe, and Free Asia are familiarly known as CIA products that have been subjected to certain prejudices. They also criticized the CIA for wasting money and efforts in fostering the Vo Dai Ton, Hoang Co Minh, and Nguyen Cao groups for so many years, despite the fact that these groups have exposed themselves conspicuously as U.S. lackeys.

These advisers also held that the CIA's new strategy should be one that can quickly effect new changes among the intelligentsia, young writers and artists, and even those from the communist ranks who are endowed with a conception of discontent and opposition, so as to use them directly or indirectly in sabotage and subversive activities.

This, however, is not a simple question because these opposition elements lack personal prestige and are despised by the people.

Meanwhile, the United States still pursues the policy of embargo, and exerts economic pressure against Vietnam and Cuba. From Kissinger to Brzezinski, the consistent stragegy of the United States remains one that is used to persistently opposing communism and destroying the entire world socialist system. What is new in this strategy is the adoption of more sophisticated and more sinister measures. Bush's instigators are racking their brains day and night for policies that can suit the situation.

NHAN DAN Editorial Views Aug Revolution

BK0209105191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Sep 91

[2 September NHAN DAN editorial: "The Vitality of the Lessons Learned From the August Revolution"]

[Text] This autumn, while celebrating the anniversaries of the August Revolution and the 2 September National Day, our entire party and people are even more profoundly aware of the great significance of these glorious historical events. The past 46 years stand witness to the resounding echo of the Declaration of Independence read at the Ba Dinh Square, as well as to the vitality of those lessons learned from the August Revolution.

The August Revolution and the great achievements scored by Vietnam throughout various heroic stages over the past 46 years are those deeds performed by our nation under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] in conformity with Ho Chi Minh's thoughts. These reflect a creative application of Marxism-Leninism in our country.

A great lesson of the Vietnamese revolution is that we have established blood-and-flesh ties between the vanguard party and the people. In less than two weeks a party comprising merely 5,000 members was able to motivate the entire nation to rise up and stage a general uprising to regain power for the people, thus ending a long nightmare of enslavement and opening up the era of independence and socialism throughout Vietnam.

Above all is the victory of our people's steely determination and ardent patriotism and also the success of the CPV's correct and creative domestic and foreign policies. Together with those experiences accumulated from the three high tides of revolution and from the many general military exercises coupled with Uncle Ho's miraculous art of leadership; and by taking advantage of the great opportunity when the Soviet Union and other freedom-loving nations triumphed over fascism, our party carried out the revolution successfully and won the people's unanimous support, thus enabling it to write up the August epic, regain independence, freedom, and happiness, and make headway along its chosen path—the path toward socialism.

As Lenin once said: The revolution should know how to protect itself. A great lesson of the Vietnamese revolution is that under no circumstances—regardless of whether the international situation is favorable or difficult—are we allowed to be demoralized in the face of sacrifices and losses or to vacillate in the face of difficulties and hardships. We should always be persistent and steady and be imbued with truism because the factor deciding the victory of the revolution always remains the internal factor.

From the realities of the past 46 years, we have drawn many valuable lessons on motivating and gathering progressive forces at home and abroad, on promoting national and international unity, on grasping opportunities and the art of leadership over mass movements, and on translating the masses' strength into an invincible force.

Stage after stage, the long crusade of the Vietnamese revolution has continued to be laden with difficulties and obstacles. This is because we have always had to cope with many sabotage schemes of our internal adversaries and external enemies. We have gone through a difficult time when the revolutionary administration was still in a nascent, dangerous stage. There were times when we were under fire from bombs and bullets, as was the case with the two wars of resistance against our powerful enemies.

To firmly protect the fruits of the August Revolution, the CPV has led the people in successfully carrying out the resistance, liberating the country, unifying the country, and advancing the entire country toward socialism.

Sixteen years since the famous victory of Spring 1975, we have entered a period with many new events, ordeals, and difficulties. It is, however, a period in which our entire party and people have persistently struggled and scored great achievements in implementing the two strategic tasks of national construction and defense, performing our internationalist duty, healing the wounds of war, and gradually building the economy along a socialist course, promoting development in the cultural, educational, and health fields, and establishing and consolidating people's administration in the entire nation.

President Ho Chi Minh was quick to point out that revolution means replacing the old with the new and the bad with the good. Over the past 46 years since the great renewal drive—that is, the August Revolution and the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam—the Vietnamese revolution has constantly drawn on its experience of successes and failure, and sought to understand the people's legitimate demands and aspirations and find a way to resolve those problems newly arisen from everyday life.

While discussing great successes achieved, those attending the CPV Sixth Party Congress criticized themselves seriously for mistakes and shortcomings they had committed in policy and in strategic leadership, and set forth a comprehensive and in-depth renovative line for the transition to socialism.

With the party's ideas already in tune with the people's minds, over the past 4 years of implementing the renovation line of the Sixth Party Congress we have made extraordinary efforts and attained initial yet very important successes. We are now standing firmly on our own feet and are making headway.

Affirming the path charted by the August revolution, the Seventh Party Congress advocated furthering the cause of building and defending the fatherland in the new situation, affirming Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought as an ideological foundation and also a beacon for all actions, stepping up the renovation in all respects, building a truly democratic and disciplined society, vigorously developing the multisectoral economy, implementing an open-minded foreign policy, making friends with all nations in the world community, and struggling for peace, independence, and development.

A basic question of the revolution is that of administration. Regaining control over the administration is difficult, but it is even more difficult to preserve the administration. The crux of the matter is how to maintain the popular character of our state—a state built by the people themselves and defended by the people's blood and bone and willpower, under the party's correct leadership.

The Seventh Party Congress underscored the need to broaden democracy, promote the people's right to mastery—which has been institutionalized by law and enforced within the framework of law—improve the managerial efficiency of the state apparatus, punish bureaucratic and corrupt activities, strengthen public order and discipline, consolidate national defense, firmly maintain political safety and public order and security, and thereby create a stable enviroment needed for development.

Recalling national history since the autumn or, more precisely, the August of 46 years ago, our entire party and people should clearly demonstrate our determination to firmly honor our pledge of 2 September 1945 that all of the Vietnamese people are determined to devote all of their minds and energies, lives and property, to maintaining freedom and independence.

Whatever the situation—regardless of whether the international situation develops in a more complicated manner—our people will resolutely defend our independence, firmly preserve all revolutionary gains, build a steadfast state, and persist in building socialism.

By upholding the traditions of the August Revolution and the strength of great national unity, developing the spirit of independence, sovereignty, and self reliance, and increasing international cooperation led by the party, we will certainly be able to overcome all difficulties and ordeals and successfully fulfill all those socioeconomic targets set by the Seventh Party Congress. We should struggle for the sake of making the people prosperous and the country powerful in our gradual transition to socialism.

Essay Views National Day, Socialism

BK0309021691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Essay by Khanh Toan: "The 2 September National Day Comes as a Reminder for Everyone Among Us to Remember His Great Responsibility"]

[Text] Today, 2 September 1991, our entire party, people, and army commemorate the 46th anniversary of our country's declaration of independence against an international background laden with extremely complex events. Through the mass media, all of us can hear, read, or see for ourselves the news and photographs that compel us to think about our responsibility to the independence and freedom of the fatherland and the results of socialism, which have been achieved by our people of various generations during the past 61 years, since the birth of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], a Marxist-Leninist party founded and trained by Uncle Ho.

Throughout the 61 years of hardship, it was the blood, sweat, and tears shed by our party, people, and army in every stage of the revolution which brought about our national independence and freedom and extricated our people from the yoke of slavery to become masters of the country. Our people are capable of defeating aggressors of all stripes to perpetuate their race and move forward to the future in the direction of socialism as laid down by the Seventh Party Congress in its political platform.

Although time has elapsed by nearly half a century, people of the generation that was involved in the 1945 autumn revolution and those of the generations that came after that unforgettable historic event should now remind each other of the immortal declaration of independence solemnly read by President Ho Chi Minh at the meeting at Ba Dinh Square on 2 September 1945. This is aimed at strengthening unity and determination in the effort to preserve the nation's priceless spiritual heritage.

By reviewing historical experiences, we all can see that to anticipate the immeasurably delightful moment of being citizens of an independent country, from the spring of 1930 to the autumn of 1945 our people unswervingly followed the party despite bloodshed in the Soviet Nghe Tinh movement, the Nam Ky uprising, and many other struggles. Although they had to suffer sacrifices or losses, our people still followed the party unswervingly. This was because the party's policies were acceptable to the people and its contingent of cadres and members always stood side by side with the people and were loyal and devoted to the people and country.

Thanks to this, when the big opportunity knocked and the order for general uprising was given by the party in the autumn of 1945, our people from the northern part to the central and southern parts of the country rose up immediately to stand around the party and act in accordance with its policies to extricate themselves from the yoke of slavery of the colonialists and feudalists and seize power for themselves. It was the invincible strength of the all-people bloc of solidarity which brought glory to the fatherland and attested to the party's vigorous vitality in the people's hearts.

After that great autumn, the party led the people in firmly maintaining the power of the young worker-peasant state through gravely critical ordeals during the first days of independence, when the country was plagued with enemies from within and without from the north to the south. Also from that autumn, the country again launched military operations to acclaim the glorious victory of Dien Bien Phu in the northwestern part of the country to the delight of friendly countries in the five continents; advance to the great 1975 spring victory; defen[illegible]e country's northern and southern borders; and help friendly and neighboring countries gain independence.

Through each revolutionary, we have encountered additional ordeals; however, thanks to the all-people bloc of solidarity and to the party's guidance, our independence and freedom have been consolidated ever more firmly and peace has been restored in all parts of our country.

When marking the 2 September national day in the autumn of this year against the background of changes in the world, let us reiterate the lesson about the relations between the party and people in a scrupulous manner and with a sense of responsibility on both sides. This is necessary to further consolidate our strength to readily overcome any misfortune that may occur in order to preserve and develop the achievements of the autumn revolution.

Commemorating the historic autumn victory, we are pleased to see the success of the Seventh CPV Congress which has set the definite path for building socialism on the Marxist-Leninist foundation and Ho Chi Minh's concept. The party political platform and economic strategy, which have been concretized a further step in the resolutions of the Seventh National Party Congress, are the base currently unifying the actions of our entire party and people.

After the Seventh CPV Congress, party organizations throughout the country are convening their second round congresses with the aim of mapping out concrete plans to apply the Seventh National Party Congress resolutions to daily life. These congresses at various levels will provide an opportunity for basic party organizations to comprehensively appraise their performances and review their good points and shortcomings to design appropriate programs of action in conformity with local conditions and the willpower and aspiration of the masses, and to elect party committees comprising good, competent members who are able to lead the people to triumphantly carry out the party's plans and programs of action. This is also a good chance for each basic party organization to strive to overcome its misunderstanding in the party lines and concepts and for opportunists and degenerate elements to be repelled to help strengthen unity between the party and people and to restore the party's vitality in the eyes of the people.

Against the present backgroud of the current complicated developments at home and abroad, if party members and basic organizations do not strive to overcome their shortcomings to regain the people's confidence, then the party will not only be unable to defend itself but will also become a target for the enemies' attacks. While the people have demanded that the party should improve itself to restore the people's confidence in it, they should consider the issue in a wider perspective. They should not throw the blame on the entire party, judging from mistakes committed only by some party members. Enemies of socialism are waiting for difficulties in the daily life and undemocratic phenomenon in society to incite the people to distance themselves from the party. As a result, efforts to enhance vigilance against the enemies' schemes and to carefully, correctly study the party with a wider perspective demonstrate a responsibility toward strengthening the party and defending the long-lasting independence and freedom of the nation.

Lessons drawn by peoples of many nations have taught us that when saboteurs of socialism vociferously demanded anarchistic democracy, pluralism, a multiparty system, and opposition they intended to plunge the country into disaster, chaos, economic recession, and moral disorder. What they want is to seize power from the Communist Party regardless of the lamentable consequences to be borne by the people. Realizing these enemies' schemes, we should enhance our viligance and strive to make efforts to defend the administration under the Communist Party leadership. Such actions will defend national independence and freedom and build a prosperous and happy life for all.

Once the party is ready to improve itself and the people are willing to contribute to strengthening the party leadership, the nation will restore its invincible strength in the defeat of all attacks from saboteurs at home and abroad.

Commemorating the 2 September National Day this year, party organizations in the entire army are making preparations to convene their second round congresses in this spirit. To uphold the army's high sense of political responsibility toward the fatherland and the people at this juncture is of great importance because it will help to firmly consolidate the party leadership over the armed forces. This is a decisive factor, helping to create political stability in our armed forces so that they may under all circumstances maintain their fine character and the glorious tradition of being faithful forces on behalf of the nation, the party, and the people—forces that always stand ready to fight and sacrifice for national independence, freedom, and socialism and to fulfill all tasks, overcome all difficulties, and defeat all enemies, thereby effectively protecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity; maintaining political stability; strengthening the party lines and concepts; and accelerating the people's socialist construction.

Commemorating the 46th National Day anniversary, people throughout the nation recall with deep grief the day when Uncle Ho departed them for good and left behind the consecrated testaments for our countrymen, comrades, and friends from throughout the world.

Extending their love to Uncle Ho, the entire party, people, and armed forces pledge that they will continue to advance along the path charted by him and that no difficulties and obstacles can impede their advancement.

Quang Can on Necessity of Socialism

BK0209154191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Sep 91

[Article by Quang Can published in "recent" issue of NHAN DAN: "The Success of Socialist Orientations Along the Path to National Liberation"]

[Text] Regardless of their political beliefs, all Vietnamese citizens must admit that the restoration of our national independence from the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists during the August 1945 general uprising was the fruit of the Vietnamese people's patriotism. It may be true, however, that not everyone realizes that this was the very success of a combination between socialist orientations and the Vietnamese people's patriotism, and that socialist orientations played a decisive role in bringing about total victory for the struggle for national independence in Vietnam.

In fact, faced with the French colonialists' yoke of domination, our people waged many struggles for independence and freedom. Many patriots belonging to different social classes made every effort to save the nation; however, all those heroic struggles waged under the banners of different patriotic forces in our society ultimately met with defeat.

Only when our party came into existence, held high the national salvation banner, and led the national liberation struggle along the socialist path could our people find a way out, make new progress, and score glorious victories.

August 1945 marked the birth of an independent Vietnam capable of catching up with other modern countries. It was President Ho Chi Minh who discovered a way to save the country. Ho Chi Minh was first and foremost a patriot. He was also known as Nguyen Ai Quoc, meaning a patriot. After having spent so many years searching for a way to save the country, that great son of the Vietnamese people finally encountered Marxism-Leninism and reached the conclusion that the proletarian revolution is the only way to save the country and liberate the people.

After becoming a communist, Ho Chi Minh maintained that to liberate the working class, one must, first of all, liberate the nation and advance the national liberation struggle to socialism to win complete victory. Thus, from the time he set out in search of a way to save the country, to the time he became a communist, Ho Chi Minh, also known as Nguyen Ai Quoc, always remained a patriot.

Reality has shown that the success of the August 1945 Revolution is the very success of the socialist orientations that Ho Chi Minh, also known as Nguyen Ai Quoc, discovered and applied to the national salvation struggle. This was a brilliant success for Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh thought in a colonial country. That thinking is a creative application of Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of the Vietnamese revolution, and also constitutes the continuity and development of the Vietnamese people's traditions and mankind's essence from past to present and east to west.

Ho Chi Minh's first and outstanding contribution lies in the very fact that he creatively applied Marxism-Leninism to the conditions in Vietnam and colonial countries as a whole, and put forth new concepts on the revolutionary movement in colonial countries. He compared revolutionary movements in colonial countries to those in mother countries and stressed that the former would have a better chance of succeeding than the latter.

Ho Chi Minh has discovered the great truth of the times—namely, that national independence is closely linked to socialism, or to put it another way, the fate of a nation is closely linked to the new era.

The national salvation struggle must undergo two development stages in order to advance to socialism—namely, the national democratic revolution and the socialist revolution. It is necessary to bear in mind that during these two development stages, constant efforts must be made to link national independence with socialism and adjust these two goals in such a way as to meet the concrete conditions and circumstances of the revolution in each country through different periods of time and development stages. Only by doing so can conditions exist for the revolution to surge forward.

In implementing the national democratic revolution, Nguyen Ai Quoc persistently capitalized on the national liberation task. As a result, at the time a number of comrade communists at home and abroad misunderstood him as a nationalist. History has proven that the concept of Nguyen Ai Quoc—or Ho Chi Minh—and that of the party are correct.

It was the changing of the revolution strategy set by the party Central Committee's eighth resolution in 1941 on upgrading the national liberation task that led to the victory of the August Revolution. Ho Chi Minh and our party asserted that the goals of the war of resistance against French colonialism were to gain national independence, provide land to the tillers, and advance toward socialism. As a result, national independence was still the foremost task while socialism was a guiding orientation for our people to continue to advance further to achieve national democratic revolution under the party leadership.

During the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation, Uncle Ho and our party advocated simultaneous implementation of the two revolutions—namely, socialist revolution in the North and national democratic revolution in the South—which were aimed at gaining total national independence and unification, thereby ushering in the new era for the nation to advance toward socialism.

As a result, the combination of national independence and socialism had advanced a step further in which national independence still remained the primary goal, whereas socialism served as a guiding orientation in the North and also supported the national independence goal. It is obvious that the socialist path of the national liberation revolution—charted by Ho Chi Minh—led our nation to victory after victory in the August Revolution, the war of resistance against French colonialism, and the anti-U.S. war of resistance for national salvation.

The total victory of the anti-U.S. war of resistance led the whole country to advance toward socialism—that is, the harmonious integration of the national independence goal with that of socialism. As a result, the Vietnamese fatherland and socialism are indivisible. It can be said that at present only by firmly combining national independence with socialism and by contending that the Vietnamese fatherland and socialism are indivisible will our people be able to attain a bountiful, free, and happy life and will our fatherland achieve long-lasting authentic independence and freedom.

Only socialism can release all forces; eliminate oppression and exploitation step by step in conformity with the gradual development of the labor force; and build a strong, prosperous nation for the Vietnamese people. It is also necessary to say that only by bringing all the Vietnamese people's potentials into full play and by taking advantage of the favorable conditions of the era will our people be able to triumphantly build socialism. This is because there is no abstract, general socialism for all nations, but rather a concrete socialism for individual nations formulated in conformity with the unique conditions, history, and characteristics of that nation's people.

The unique characteristics of each nation and people are the compass for building socialism in each country, not dogmatism or imitation of other nations and peoples. The national spirit, interest, morals, and tradition are the great political, ideological, and material strengths that must be optimally mobilized to build socialism. The current socialism chosen by our people is not the old socialist model, it is the model built with fundamental characteristics in conformity with basic guiding orientations stipulated in the Seventh CPV Congress' political platform.

We must strive to firmly grasp the Seventh CPV Congress resolution, turn our concepts into action, apply the party resolutions in daily life, and gradually score new achievements in implementing the renovation undertaking set by the Sixth CPV Congress, thereby gaining concrete results for the material and spiritual life of the people. These are efforts to continue carrying out the sole, correct path chosen by our party and people—the path that rejects the illusions of capitalism, and the path that has been tested by the history of the heroic and victorious struggle of our people, beginning with the glorious victory of the August Revolution in 1945.

Hanoi Reports on Prisoners Freed by PRC

BK3108141691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 August 91

[Text] Twenty-three Vietnamese prisoners were returned to Vietnam by the Chinese side at the Huu Nghi [Friendship] border gate in Lang Son on 29 August 1991. This event was witnessed by a representative of the International Red Cross in Hanoi and by representatives of various Vietnamese sectors concerned.

Finance Minister Receives Malaysian Counterpart

BK3108074091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Aug 91

[Text] Minister Hoang Quy and other leaders and officials of the Ministry of Finance has received in Hanoi Malaysian Minister of Finance Anwar Ibrahim who had just attended the symposium entitled "Interaction for Progress: Vietnam's New Cause and ASEAN Experiences."

The two ministers discussed the cooperation between the two ministries in management. They agreed to strengthen this cooperation and expand it to other domains such as economy and trade.

Nguyen Quyet Receives Malaysia, Australia Envoys

BK3108154191 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 31—The New Myanmar [Burma] and Australian Ambassadors to Vietnam, Mr. U. Win Shein and Mr. Michael John Potts, today presented their credentials to Vice President of the State Council Nguyen Quyet.

Ministers Attend Malaysian Reception

BK3108153591 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 31—Malaysian Ambassador N. Parameswaran gave a reception here this evening in honour of the 34th National Day of Malaysia (Aug. 31).

His Vietnamese guests included Minister of Commerce and Tourism Le Van Triet, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, and other senior government officials.

Toasts were raised to the achievements made by the Malaysian and Vietnamese peoples in national construction, and to the constant consolidation and development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and Malaysia in the interests of each country, and of peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Meeting Held To Celebrate Aug Revolution

BK3108153791 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 31 Aug 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 31—A mass meeting was held here today by the Party Committee, the People's Committee, the People's Council and the Fatherland Front of Hanoi in celebration of the 46th August Revolution anniversary (Aug.19) and the national day of Vietnam (Sept.2).

Present on the presidium of the meeting were Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Vo Chi Cong, President of the State Council, and Phan Van Khai, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In his commemorative speech, Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi party committee, said: "In any circumstances we have been always firm and persisted in our objective. As for Vietnam, to achieve real independence for the nation, freedom and happiness for the people, there is no other alternative but the road toward socialism. This is the choice of history, of our beloved President Ho and our entire party and people".

Mass meetings and other activities were also organized in provinces and cities throughout the country to mark the anniversaries.

Doan Khue Attends Army Party Congress

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[From the daily press review]

[Text] On 26 August, the 9th Military Region party organization held its second round congress in Can Tho City, Hau Giang Province. Comrade Doan Khue, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense attended the congress.

The congress extensively discussed measures to firmly grasp the resolutions of the Seventh CPV Congress and the party Central Committee Political Bureau and the Military Commission on national defense for the 1991-95 five-year period; review guiding and supervisory tasks of the military region party committee during the 1986-90 term. The congress also discussed ways and means aimed at effectively combining the economic activities with those of national defense in the region and at building a firm and strong all-people national defense, so as to firmly protect the party, socialism, and the renovation undertaking of our party and people.